

1 24 1991
to hit
of
t says
(AP) — A
nce a head
under the
the young
appel.
t. Kirk
us was it
family
video
studio in
197. He was
2 on a \$1
did not
id refused
to use for
The 9th U.S.
appeals
reals
Palmer
by Erickson
even if Erick
is withheld
winning
related
son Rose,
Kron family
an had no
ada law. He
i. racted
is gambling
said
"indecency
of
him and
him to use
money
won a large
they did
AS COUP
vithal G.
grandmother
program he
i attempt
m, he told
usday, he
the was
his voice
to see. We
body
family —
a
Iraqi
prisoners
"Austrian
d is best
instead
is running
one to the
id we have
id we have
the asked
a could lay
to be held
week." Mr.
Gorbachev
Mussolini
ok it
re-
alise his
tenel
Like as
President
died on
merito
states
the same
Mr. G.
conference
telephone
rec. He
treat. He
nursed in
we have
sachew
nd we
begin
on their
We
hilly hills.
Y. Amos
ny
slams
Stollman
se forward
d with a
jet plane
lay to
this
military
in some
the same
grace
line. He
ed to
the
about
"said
aller
But
the only
use.
a
a
to say
york press

Iraq parliament approves law on parties

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's parliament Saturday approved changes to a law allowing political parties, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. It said the 250-member National Assembly voted in an emergency session to endorse amendments proposed by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). The ruling Baath Party, whose ideology revolves around socialism, Arab nationalism and a hardline stand on Israel, the pro-government Democratic Party of Kurdistan and the Revolutionary Party of Kurdistan are now the only legal parties. At an earlier session, the assembly proposed banning any party whose ideology clashed with that of the Baath takeover in Iraq in a July 1968 revolution. The RCC wanted this provision dropped and the assembly, which consistently backs government policies, obliged. President Saddam Hussein has promised to introduce economic and political reforms. Other amendments approved Saturday stipulate that new political parties must be committed to defend Iraq's sovereignty and territory. They will have the right to issue a newspaper or magazine. Parties must not have any links with foreign governments nor accept foreign donations without approval.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى.

U.N. rights body criticises Iran

GENEVA (R) — A U.N. human rights subcommittee has accused Iran of widespread and grave violations of human rights, a U.N. spokesman said Saturday. A resolution, passed by an overwhelming majority Friday night, said Iran showed escalating and grave violations of the right to life, to freedom from torture, to liberty, to a fair trial and to freedom of thought and religion. The subcommittee "expressed its grave concern at the reports of a continuing wave of arrests and executions within the Islamic Republic of Iran and of political assassinations abroad." It did not directly mention the murder in Paris on Aug. 6 of Shapur Bakhtiar, the last prime minister under the late Shah of Iran, but deplored "the apparent direct involvement" of Iranian government agents in the killing of leading dissident Kazem Rajavi outside Geneva of April 24, 1990. The document said the 26 experts on the subcommittee were appalled that the number of officially announced executions for the first seven months of 1991 was three times greater than the total for the same period of 1990. It said it was "disturbed at statements made by Iranian judicial officials and at laws advocating the torturing of prisoners and ordinary citizens, and especially at the widespread public flogging of women."

Volume 16 Number 4784

AMMAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 1991, SAJR 15, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Gorbachev resigns as Communist Party head

Russian premier to head new central cabinet; Ukraine declares independence; Yeltsin blesses Estonia, Latvia

Combined agency dispatches

PRESIDENT MIKHAIL Gorbachev said on Saturday he was resigning as head of the Soviet Communist Party and ordered the confiscation of its property. "I do not consider it possible to continue to carry out the functions of general secretary," he said in a statement read on Soviet television.

The decision comes three days after the collapse of a coup led by hardline members of the party. Mr. Gorbachev also recommended the dissolution of the party's policy-making Central Committee and banned party activity in the armed forces, KGB security police and state organisations.

The Soviet leader, criticised for defending the Communist Party after this week's abortive coup, signed a decree authorising elected local councils to take over its vast property holdings.

"Councils of people's deputies (state administrations) must take control of all property of the

Communist Party of the Soviet Union," the decree said. "The question of its future use should be resolved according to the laws of the USSR and its republics."

The government's national evening newscast "Vremya" later read Mr. Gorbachev's statement announcing his decision.

"The secretariat (and) the politburo did not stop the coup. The Central Committee could not take a resolute position of condemning and confronting the coup," Mr. Gorbachev said in the statement.

"It didn't urge Communists to fight against the suppression of the constitutional lawfulness. Among the coup plotters, there were members of the party leadership. Several party committees and mass media supported the actions of the state criminals. This put millions of Communists in a position of uncertainty," the statement said.

Mr. Gorbachev also appointed Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev to head a new Soviet

government, a decree read out on television said.

He asked the Soviet parliament, which meets Monday, to debate a no confidence motion in the government of former Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, who was arrested after last Monday's abortive coup.

The resignation appeared to signal the end of rule by the Communist Party, which has run the Soviet Union since the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

The step capped a week that began with the hardline coup against Mr. Gorbachev and his democratic reforms, and witnessed fiery resistance led by Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

The coup accelerated the decline of Mr. Gorbachev's popularity, particularly after his release from house arrest, as he stubbornly defended the party and clung to his role as its leader in the face of growing popular anger against the plot.

Mr. Gorbachev, in resigning the post, was seeking to become

the first Kremlin leader in decades to retain power without control over the Communist Party.

Previous Kremlin leaders who tried to rule while holding power through government or state jobs rather than the party have been toppled by those who controlled the vast party apparatus.

But the coup and recent events have shifted real power in the country from the central government and party to the 15 Soviet republics, including the Russian Federation, of which Mr. Yeltsin is president.

Mr. Yeltsin's globally recognised leadership in defeating the coup, and Mr. Gorbachev's failure to grasp the collapse of party rule, further diminished Mr. Gorbachev's authority.

Mr. Gorbachev became general secretary of the Communist Party in March 1985, succeeding the late Konstantin Chernenko. Mr. Gorbachev did not become Soviet president until October

(Continued on page 3)

Sharon: U.S. reneged on promised 'memo'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said Saturday the United States has backed off on assurances Israel sees as the basis for its participation at the proposed Middle East peace conference.

His remarks followed reports in the daily Maariv Friday that Secretary of State James Baker would return to Israel in mid-September to present Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir with a letter outlining the U.S. position on the proposed Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Mr. Sharon, who has repeatedly voiced his opposition to the proposed conference, said Israel had agreed to attend the talks on the condition it received a memorandum of understanding from the United States, outlining past and present agreements with Israel.

"And I know from foreign sources that the United States has already given a negative reply and doesn't intend to sign a

memorandum of agreement on past agreements and on a list of issues," said the hawkish minister.

"This is definitely in conflict with the Israeli government position," Mr. Sharon added.

The question of Palestinian representation at the peace conference is one of the main sticking points. Israel refuses to accept Arab demands of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) involvement and participation of Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem.

"We agreed to go to this very dangerous international conference, one of the conditions being that if the Palestinian delegation, during the negotiations, announced it represented the PLO, then Israel and the United States would leave the talks," Mr. Sharon said.

"I heard from whom I consider very trustworthy foreign sources, that today the U.S. position is different," Mr. Sharon added,

noting that although the source said Mr. Shamir had been informed of this change the cabinet still had not received such information.

"First of all, the United States would not leave in such an instance nor does it see the Palestinian delegation announcing it represents the PLO as enough reason for Israel to abandon talks," he said the sources told him.

Foreign Minister David Levy has repeatedly said the United States supports Israel's position and Mr. Sharon had no explanation for the conflicting information.

Mr. Sharon was one of three hawkish cabinet ministers who voted against Israel's conditional acceptance this month of the U.S. proposals for a Middle East peace conference.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner would not comment on Mr. Sharon's remarks, only saying that

talks on the assurances were still taking place.

"We are working on that with the United States," Mr. Pazner told Reuters.

During his last Middle East shuttle, Mr. Baker promised to provide written assurances to parties likely to attend the conference.

U.S. officials gave scant details what the nature of the written assurances would be, but Israel immediately began referring to a memorandum of understanding to be signed by both countries that would enshrine its demands regarding the talks.

Mr. Sharon said the United States wanted to provide Israel with a letter of assurances, which would not carry the weight of a memorandum signed by the two states.

At the beginning of this week, the Israeli daily Davar said the United States preferred a letter of

(Continued on page 3)

Bush lauds Soviet changes, still reluctant to boost aid

KENNEBUNKPORT (R) — U.S. President George Bush said Saturday stunning changes in the Soviet Union seemed to work in the United States' favour but it was still premature to back the reforms with Western cash.

Mr. Bush was updated by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft on the latest developments, including a report that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev might dissolve the Communist Party, during a round of golf with golfing legend Arnold Palmer.

"You really can't comment until you know the facts, but I see nothing adverse in these developments, adverse to the interest of the United States, which, of course, is our prime interest," he told reporters at the 18th hole. Mr. Bush said the defeat of a move by Soviet hardliners to seize power in the Kremlin "removes some of the roadblocks to economic reform," which he has set as a condition for massive Western financial aid to rebuild the Soviet economy. German and French officials are pressing for such assistance to strengthen the Soviet democracy movement, and there are signs that Britain is increasingly sympathetic.

British Prime Minister John Major said Saturday help should be given to the Soviet republics as well as to the central government in Moscow. In a letter to opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, Mr. Major denied that cash for Mos-

cow could have prevented this week's coup attempt by Communist hardliners.

Senior officials of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations — the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan — were to meet in London next week to assess the situation (See page 8).

But Mr. Bush, who has opposed expanding aid, said he felt no pressure to change his position.

"I've not been contacted by any single member of the G-7 with that in mind," said Mr. Bush, who is on holiday at his Maine retreat.

"There's just a lot of things that have to happen before we can move forward," he said.

Mr. Bush will discuss the political upheaval in the Soviet Union with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who arrives Sunday for an overnight visit. Mr. Major is to begin a three-day visit Wednesday, and the West's response to the changes in the Soviet Union will also be a topic then.

At the London economic summit last month, the G-7 agreed to bring the Soviet Union into the international economic community by granting it associate status in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The major industrial powers also said they would provide technical support for reforms of such areas of the Soviet economy as food distribution and energy production.

Anderson or Waite could be freed in return for Obeid

TEHRAN (AP) — American hostage Terry Anderson or British Terry Waite could be released by their Lebanese kidnappers in exchange for freedom for a Shiite Muslim cleric held by Israel, an Iranian source said Saturday.

Meanwhile, President Hashemi Rafsanjani accused Israel of blocking a hostage agreement and blamed the United States for failing to pressure the Jewish state to help free the Westerners held in Lebanon.

In Beirut Saturday, the office of the highest Shiite Muslim leader in Lebanon said that reports quoting him as saying seven missing Israeli servicemen were dead were not accurate.

The office of Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, the ranking official on the Shiite Supreme Council, said he did not know which of the seven were alive or dead, but urged details to be made public so the hostage issue could be closed.

Hopes of freeing the remaining hostages believed held captive by pro-Iranian groups have been raised by the release earlier this month of two Westerners and by stepped-up hostage talks.

But a main sticking point has been Israel's insistence on receiving information on seven Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon before it begins releasing any of the 400 prisoners whose release is sought by Hizbollah, the Lebanese group believed to be responsible for the hostage holders.

The Iranian source, who is

close to the negotiations but spoke on condition of anonymity, said the kidnappers would be ready to exchange either Mr. Anderson or Mr. Waite for Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a Hizbollah spiritual leader abducted by Israeli agents from his home in South Lebanon in July 1989.

The source said Mr. Anderson and Mr. Waite are considered prize hostages by their Lebanese kidnappers, but did not elaborate.

Mr. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, is the longest-held of the Westerners. He was abducted March 16, 1985. Mr. Waite, an Anglican Church envoy, was kidnapped Jan. 20, 1987 while he was on a mission to Beirut to try to win freedom for hostages.

Mr. Rafsanjani, at a Tehran news conference Saturday, suggested that Washington was behind what he called Israel's unwillingness to act on the hostage issue.

"Israel alone cannot do anything without U.S. assistance," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

"Presently, there are 300 to 400 Lebanese being held in the prisons of the Zionist regime. They have been kidnapped from Lebanon and are treated as prisoners of war."

"But the United States is not using its influence for the release of the hostages. Therefore, we suspect the U.S., as well as Israel," the president said.



A young man attaches a rope to the statue of "Iron" Felix Dzerzhinsky, the founder of the Cheka, forerunner of the KGB, which stands outside KGB headquarters in Moscow, shortly before a crowd pulled the statue down Friday.

Arafat due in Amman

AMMAN (I.T.T.) — Two members of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are currently visiting Amman to prepare for a visit of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is expected to discuss issues related to the Middle East peace conference scheduled to be held in October.

Informed sources said PLO executives Mahmoud Abbas and Yasser Abed Rabbo arrived in Amman Friday for talks with Jordanian officials. There was no immediate confirmation whether they met any official Saturday.

"Mr. Arafat is expected here anytime now," said one of the sources without being specific.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour told the Associated Press in an interview Saturday that Mr. Arafat will visit Jordan soon for talks on the proposed peace conference and prospects for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

"We want to hear from the PLO their position on the form of Palestinian participation" in the conference, Dr. Ensour was quoted as saying by the AP.

An unnamed PLO official, also quoted by the AP, said Mr. Arafat was not expected to come up with a solid answer concerning the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference.

"Mr. Arafat's talks in Jordan will focus on achieving a unified position on the basis of which the peace conference will be convened," the official was quoted as saying.

Iraq sends officials to Iran for talks on mending ties

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A deputy Iraqi foreign minister arrived in Iran for talks Saturday, breaking a freeze in relations between the neighbouring countries since the ceasefire in the Gulf war.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Saad Al Faisal as saying, "We will discuss various mutual issues with Iranian officials."

Iraq patched its ties with Iran, wrecked by the 1980-88 Gulf war, during the conflict over Kuwait.

But after the February ceasefire Iran was angered by Iraqi accusations that it supported a rebellion in the predominantly Shiite Muslim. Refugees from the south and from Kurdish rebellion in the north poured in Iran.

Mr. Faisal said he hoped his visit would build mutual trust but refused to discuss his agenda. IRNA said it is believed to include Iranian still held since the Iran-Iraq war, and over 100 civilian and military planes that Iraq sent to Iran during the war that it

shows no signs of returning. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the delegation headed by Mr. Faisal will discuss Iraqi prisoners still held in Iran after the war.

INA said the Iraqi visit came at Iran's invitations and would last a few days.

"Discussions will focus on the steps... that would guarantee the two neighbouring countries avoiding any new negative positions," INA said.

Iraq says 148 of its fighter jets flew to Iran to escape allied bombing in the Gulf war.

Iran has acknowledged the arrival of less than a third of that number and says many are in poor condition. Several crashed, killing their pilots, it says.

Relations between the two countries deteriorated after Iraq accused Iran of supporting and even taking part in the southern rebellion after the Gulf war at the end of February. Iran denied the charge.

Some 1.17 million Iraqis, mostly Kurds, fled across the border to Iran. Iran says more than half have returned home.

Iraq's army newspaper Al Qadisiyah said last month 30,000 Iraqi soldiers were still being held prisoner in Iran.

In Tehran, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a news conference Iran was seeking to improve ties with Iraq.

"For us the principle is to have relations with Iraq irrespective of who is ruling there," IRNA quoted him as saying.

"Iraq is our neighbour and its people are important for us. Moreover, there are holy sites in that country. We hope that these relations will gradually improve."

Iran is also holding six Kuwaiti Airbus planes flown to Iran by Iraqi pilots for safekeeping during the Gulf war.

A Gulf-based Iranian diplomat said Thursday Mr. Rafsanjani had ordered their return in an effort to improve relations with Gulf Arab states.

Lebanese government soldiers storm hideouts of militiamen

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Hundreds of Lebanese troops stormed suspected militia hideouts and confiscated weapons and ammunition across Lebanon Saturday, military sources said.

They said troops backed by tanks moved into the northern Batroun region and the towns of Bcharre, Ehden and Zghourta and the port area of Tripoli, 70 kilometres north of Beirut.

Troops raided suspected militia bases in Beirut's southern suburbs, mountains to the east and South Lebanon, seizing some munition and heavy machineguns, ammunition and vehicles, they added. No breakdown of the weapons and ammunition was available.

The moves are part of a nine-month-old drive by the Lebanese government to extend its authority over all of Lebanon and put a lasting end to the 15-year-old civil war.

Security sources said troops searched two positions which Palestinian fighters abandoned last month near the southern port of Sidon.

The sources said troops seized guns from the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia northeast of Beirut and from the Progressive Socialist Party militia in the village of Qoubay, 20 kilometres southeast of the capital.

They also collected arms from Hizbollah (Party of God) in Beirut's southern suburbs and South Lebanon.

Lebanese officials fear some of the private armies held on to some heavy and medium weapons despite agreeing to surrender their arms as part of the Syrian-backed peace plan.

Hizbollah refused to hand over its arms on the grounds that they were needed to attack Israeli and allied forces in South Lebanon. The government has demanded that Israeli forces withdraw but has been unable to put an end to guerrilla attacks on them.

A spokesman for the Islamic Resistance, a resistance alliance led by Hizbollah, said fighters detonated a bomb Saturday between the villages of Brashsheet and Beit Yahoun, which are on the edge of an Israeli-declared

"security zone" in the south. He said the blast hit an armoured personnel carrier of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, killing or wounding all inside. There was no immediate confirmation.

The zone is held by an estimated 1,000 Israeli troops and the 3,000-strong SLA. Israel says it will withdraw only when all other foreign forces, including 40,000 Syrian troops, leave Lebanon.

Villagers clash with Hizbollah

Angry villagers demanding a halt in attacks against Israel clashed with Hizbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon overnight, and police said Saturday one guerrilla was killed.

The clash was the first between the population and Hizbollah guerrillas since the Lebanese army moved into South Lebanon June 1.

A police spokesman said the clash broke out around 9:30 p.m.

Bessmertnykh departure has no bearing on Mideast—Bush

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush Friday expressed confidence Middle East peace talks would be unaffected by the sacking of Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh.

Mr. Bessmertnykh, who was helping arrange an October peace conference between Israel and Arab states, told ABC News President Mikhail Gorbachev had removed him on grounds that he was too passive toward last week's coup attempt.

Mr. Gorbachev said he dismissed the foreign minister after receiving information that Mr. Bessmertnykh "was at least manoeuvring or did not take a clear position (over the coup)."

Mr. Bessmertnykh, who served as Soviet ambassador to Washington before replacing Eduard Shevardnadze as foreign minister early this year, called Secretary of State James Baker at his Wyoming vacation home with word of his ouster.

Mr. Baker contacted the vacationing president at the Cape Arundel Golf Club, where he was playing an early-morning round of golf, and relayed the news. Mr. Bush took the call on a golf cart telephone.

"I have no comment on that. Let them sort it all out," Mr.

Bush told reporters when asked about Mr. Bessmertnykh's departure, part of a wide shake-up that also involved a Defence Ministry house-cleaning.

Asked if it would affect U.S.-Soviet plans for a Middle East peace conference in October, Mr. Bush replied, "No, I don't think it means all that — in fact, Bessmertnykh told Baker it had no implications for that."

Following is part of a transcript of comments made by Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker Friday.

Question: Sir, where do you go from now on the Middle East issue? Are you in contact with Mr. Bessmertnykh? Is it completely out? What do you expect next?

Mr. Bush: The secretary of state has talked to Mr. Bessmertnykh. And let me just ask him to comment in a little more detail here on how he sees that developing.

But I can tell you we will do everything we can to see this peace conference go forward. It is in the interest of the entire world. And through hard work by our secretary of state, and with cooperation of a lot of other entities — countries and entities — things have moved far beyond where many of the severest cynics

thought it would be. And now with this turmoil in the Soviet Union hopefully behind us, and with the Soviet Union being important in all of this, I see nothing but an improved chance. But, I would like you to comment on the next detail, if you would.

Mr. Baker: I did have an opportunity to talk by telephone with Minister Bessmertnykh when I was in Brussels and I believe that the Soviet Union will be every bit as committed toward trying to create jointly with us and others an active and viable peace process in the Middle East as they were before. Some of you may have seen during the course of the coup where certain sources — a very limited number, as the president has pointed out — praised the fact of the coup. Those sources have shown an uncanny ability in the past to back losers. And this is another example of that.

We think — we believe that there's an opportunity here for a possibility for peace. It's an opportunity that may not come by again for a long time. And we would hope that all the countries in the region and the sources and entities would subscribe to that and would join with us in seeking to promote peace in the Middle East.

Arafat hails Gorbachev's 'triumph'

TUNIS (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Friday congratulated Mikhail Gorbachev on his "triumphant victory" and asked for his support for Palestinian self-determination.

"We are convinced that your efforts will be continued towards holding a conference on peace in the Middle East and the establishment of a just and global peace," Mr. Arafat said in a message to Mr. Gorbachev carried by the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

"We are sure you will always support the national rights of people for self-determination and the creation of an independent state having as its capital Al Quds," Mr. Arafat told Mr. Gorbachev.

Last month Mr. Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush announced they would convene a Middle East peace conference to address the Arab-Israeli question in October.

This week's three-day-long push against Mr. Gorbachev put the conference in doubt, but the coup collapsed and the Soviet leader has returned to power.

Mr. Arafat stayed quiet during the coup, but some of his lieutenants and other faction leaders within the PLO were quick to say they hoped the coup leaders would curb Jewish immigration to the Israeli-occupied territories.

With the failure of the coup Wednesday, Wafa noted that Palestinian leaders were free to express their personal opinions but the organisation considered the coup an internal matter.

Before Kremlin hardliners moved against Mr. Gorbachev, the prospect of the peace conference threatened to isolate the PLO, which is insisting that Palestinians from occupied East Jerusalem take part. Israel rejects the demand.

Other key Arab states have agreed to join the talks, and it is the inflexibility between Israel and the PLO that have held up final agreement on the conference, for which no dates or location have been announced.

Mr. Arafat's mainstream PLO faction, Fateh, is seeking a meeting between the PLO, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt to discuss the proposed peace conference, Wafa said in a separate report.

It said the call was made during a two-day meeting this week of the Fateh Revolutionary Council. Such a meeting could bring Arab positions closer in line with each other, the dispatch said.

It did not mention when or where the talks might be held.

Iran sends congratulations

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has sent a message to President Gorbachev congratulating him on his return to power, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday.

Mr. Rafsanjani "wished success for President Gorbachev in pursuing his reforms and plans in the Soviet Union and expressed hope that Tehran-Moscow strategic relations will be further broadened," the news agency said.

The message was handed over to Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rugachev by Iran's ambassador to Moscow, Nematollah Izadi, on Friday, IRNA reported.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati sent Mr. Gorbachev a similar message of congratulations Thursday.

At the height of the coup attempt, Iran had expressed concern about the possibility of civil war, religious freedom and treaties with its giant northern neighbour.

Morocco continues 'police operations' in W. Sahara

RABAT (R) — Morocco said Saturday it was carrying out operations against Polisario guerrillas in the Western Sahara but denied it was a major assault on rebels fighting for the territory's independence.

The official MAP news agency said Moroccan troops were continuing "police operations" in Western Sahara which were started in early August but said they were not in any case "large-scale operations."

In statements published in Algeria, Polisario spokesmen said Morocco had deployed nearly 100,000 troops in massive attacks on the localities of Tifariti, Bir Lahlou and Mijek which they said were in "liberated territories."

Polisario said the latest operation was a large attack on Friday in the north-eastern corner of the former Spanish colony against Bir Lahlou, an oasis used in the past

as the dateline for its communications.

The MAP account said Moroccan troops were carrying out operations in a no-man's land between the 1,500-kilometre Moroccan defence lines and the eastern borders of the disputed territory, near Algeria and Mauritania.

Neither side has given any indication of casualties in the fighting, which has flared after a lull of nearly two years.

It takes place on the eve of a formal ceasefire due to be proclaimed by the United Nations on Sept. 6 before a referendum in January to settle the 15-year-old conflict.

King Hassan of Morocco said Tuesday the U.N. peace plan was months behind schedule and asked the U.N. to revise the timetable for the ceasefire and referendum.

Algerian premier says election laws to be changed

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria is to change electoral laws, one of the main causes of violence which halted general elections in June, Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghozali said Saturday.

"The government agrees to work on reformulating the electoral law and the law on constituency boundaries and submit both drafts to the national assembly," Mr. Ghozali said in a statement.

The laws were approved in April by the assembly, which was dominated by the National Liberation Front (FLN) which had ruled Algeria since independence in 1961.

But they were contested by opposition parties, especially the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). The FIS called a political strike of unlimited duration in protest against the laws, which led to bloody clashes in June and a state of siege being imposed.

The date of the first multi-party elections, which were to have been held on June 28, will be fixed soon, Mr. Ghozali said.

The Arabic daily El Messa said this week the elections would be held on Dec. 5. The present assembly's mandate expires on Feb. 23 next year.

Opposition leaders from dozens of parties pressed government officials Friday to name a date for elections.

At a conference drafting rules for the elections, the oppositionists also demanded the government announced when they would lift the state of emergency.

Premier Ghozali told the representatives from 42 opposition parties that the government agreed "to take charge of organising the entire electoral process, from setting up the voting booths to announcing the results."

But the government opponents demanded to know when Hocine Ait-Ahmad, secretary general of the centrist opposition group Socialist Forces Front, expressed participants' impatience, demanding answers to "three questions: The date of the elections, the date of the elections and the date of the elections."

Likud delegation sees Egypt as partner in peace

TEL AVIV (AP) — The leader of the first delegation of the ruling Likud Bloc to Egypt said Friday he was surprised by the warm reception given the delegation by the Egyptian leaders and people.

"There was a very clear message — that there is a desire to talk peace, to talk peace with the Likud," said Gil Samsonov, also spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's ruling Likud Bloc.

"It was a very warm atmosphere and we were very surprised," Mr. Samsonov said. He described a salesman in the Cairo market who told him the Egyptian people "want peace. Peace is happiness and growth. War is poverty, death and pain."

The Egyptian leadership now "totally understands that it made a grave mistake for eight years by completely ignoring the legitimate government of Israel," Mr. Samsonov added.

Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979 but relations have been chilly. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has refused to see Mr. Shamir or further normalise ties with Israel until progress is made towards Middle East peace.

The Likud delegation met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Deputy Prime Minister Youssef Wali and other Egyptian officials.

An earlier statement from the delegation had said Mr. Wali in-

formed the visitors that Mr. Mubarak had invited Mr. Shamir to Cairo.

But Mr. Samsonov said the statement had been exaggerated. "What we did say is that Mr. Wali told us that there is great respect for the open and clear statements of Mr. Shamir, the prime minister of Israel, and that it is clear... that Mr. Shamir is a welcome guest in Egypt any time he wants," Mr. Samsonov said.

"Mr. Wali told us that there has been a dramatic change in Mubarak's attitude towards Shamir in the past ten days," Mr. Samsonov added. "There is readiness in Egypt to talk with Shamir."

The Likud delegation of the bloc's young leadership agreed to host a reciprocal visit of Mr. Mubarak's National Democratic Party to start a permanent dialogue between the two groups. They also discussed a visit of Israeli Likud legislators to Cairo in September, Mr. Samsonov said.

"For me personally one thing changed from this visit. I know we have a real partner for peace in Egypt and this is really important," he added.

Egypt can play a significant and positive role in the peace process by convincing "the extreme Arab countries to be more moderate and flexible," Mr. Samsonov said, adding that he hoped Egypt would begin to press the Arab countries for more flexibility instead of Israel.

2 former ministers held in Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Two former Sudanese ministers under deposed Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi are being held in connection with a plot to overthrow Khartoum's ruling junta, the London-based Al Hayat newspaper said Saturday.

In a report from Khartoum, it said former Education and Finance ministers Bakri Ahmad Adil and Bashir Omar Fadalla were both under arrest.

Exiled politicians and press reports said Friday the ruling military junta had detained 15 people for questioning.

They said five colonels and four lieutenant-colonels were arrested Tuesday. Four retired army officers and two civilians known to be members of Mr. Mahdi's Umma Party were detained the following day.

Sudan confirmed Friday it uncovered a plot to overthrow the junta and arrested more than a dozen military officers and several civilians, Egypt's National News Agency MENA said.

Major-General Mohammad Talba Awaida, the Sudanese armed forces' spokesman, said on national radio that 10 serving officers, a number of retired officers and a few civilians had confessed to planning a coup during interrogation.

Reports from Nicosia earlier Friday said that 15 people were detained for questioning.

Security forces were aware of the plot from its inception, Gen. Awaida was quoted as saying by MENA in a report from the Sudanese capital.

"This pathetic group had been under observation since the start of its movement and the security apparatus caught the dissension in its cradle," Gen. Awaida said. There was no mention of any fighting.

Al Hayat, quoting former commander-in-Chief of Sudan's armed forces Fathi Ahmad Ali from his exile in Alexandria, Egypt, said two Umma Members — Abdul Rahman Nogaadallah and Abdul Latif Al Gomeaabi — were also arrested.

Sudanese sources said Mr. Gomeaabi was head of the Umma's militia affairs.

Amnesty envoy in Beirut holds talks on Arabs held by Israel

BEIRUT (R) — An envoy of human rights watchdog Amnesty International has held talks in Beirut with the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) on Arabs held by Israel, whose fate is linked to that of Western hostages in Lebanon.

A Hizbollah spokesman said Saturday that Aziz Abdul Hussein, the Middle East representative of Amnesty, held talks on the issue of about 400 Arabs detained without trial by Israel and its client militia in South Lebanon.

Hizbollah and pro-Iranian kidnap groups holding Westerners in Lebanon want the Arabs freed in a U.N.-brokered swap being negotiated since the freeing of British hostage John McCarthy on Aug. 8 and American Edward Tracy three days later.

Most of the Arabs are held at Khiam prison in South Lebanon and Amnesty has regularly voiced concern about their detention and treatment.

The spokesman said Mr. Abdul Hussein did not raise in the talks the question of 10 Westerners missing in Lebanon — five Americans, two Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

Hizbollah, accused by the West of being an umbrella for kidnap groups, has repeatedly denied any role in hostage-taking.

The Amnesty representative discussed Lebanese prisoners who Hizbollah and the Lebanese captives' relatives say were handed to Israel by the right-wing Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, the Hizbollah spokesman said.

"The families of those held captive by the Lebanese Forces asked for their sons after (LF) transferred them to Israeli prisons," Hizbollah Deputy Secretary-General Naeem Qassem said Friday.

Mr. Qassem hit out at the Lebanese government for not securing their release and said it should be a matter of the highest priority. The LF says it has freed all its prisoners.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Saturday reiterated his view that Israel was the main obstacle to the hostage swap. He said Washington should exert pressure on the Jewish state

to release Arab captives, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

Speaking at a news conference in Tehran, he said:

"There are 300 to 400 Lebanese being held in the prisons of the Zionist regime. They have been kidnapped from Lebanon and are treated as prisoners-of-war." One of them, prominent Shiite cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, was kidnapped from his home in South Lebanon by Israeli commandos two years ago.

Mr. Rafsanjani said that despite the freeing of Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Tracy "there had been no goodwill from the other side."

"The problem lies with them (the other party). There is no problem on this side," he stressed.

Israel has demanded information of seven of its servicemen missing in Lebanon before agreeing to release any Arab prisoners.

The religious leader of Lebanon's Shiite Muslims, Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, said Friday that he had been told that none of the missing Israelis was alive, although he had no positive information on them.

He appealed to groups holding the Israelis or their remains to hand them over as part of the hostage swap.

Iran's U.N. envoy, Kamal Kharrazi, said Friday Tehran wanted any swap to clarify the fate of four Iranians missing in Lebanon since 1982. Western diplomats say they were killed.

BCCI staff bid to buy Pakistani branches

KARACHI (R) — The employees of the scandal-hit Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) in Pakistan stepped up efforts Saturday to buy three bank branches in the country with customers' help. "We have given a simple and yet acceptable plan to the State (Central) Bank of Pakistan," BCCI's country Treasury Manager Khalil A. Hassan told reporters.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Montague
18:30 Le Chevalier de Ciel
19:00 News in French
19:15 Strategeme
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Yes Minister
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:30 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

04:39 Fajr
06:01 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:38 Dhuhr
16:13 'Asr
20:14 Maghreb
20:36 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzianita Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
77331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Syrian International Church Tel.
683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811255

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 828824, 654922

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds
will be northwesterly moderate. In
Aqaba, winds will be northerly moder-
ate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 19 / 34
Aqaba 27 / 38
Deserts 20 / 38
Jordan Valley 23 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-
man 33, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings:
Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 40 per

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wael Khartab 665917
Dr. Khalil Abdul Qader 795392
Dr. Yahya Abdul Rahim 736072
Dr. Kayed Hakeem 793522
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaoudh pharmacy 644945
Shamsiddine pharmacy 637650

IRBID:

Dr. Mohamed Al Sharaa (—)
Al Sharaa's pharmacy 278825

ZARQA:

Dr. Hussein Mahmoud (—)
Khalidh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 634402
Police 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 834402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 632101
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 602030
Central Amman Telephone 630300
Repairs 632101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64421/1
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsiddine 664171/4
Shamsiddine Hospital 669121
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mansher Hospital 667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir 77101/3
Al-Badr, J. Abdali 775112/5
Army, Marja 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/30
Ansal Hospital 674135

IRBID:

Prince Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Al Naifas Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal
Jordanian (RJ) information depart-
ment at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (05)3230-5, where it
should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)

06:15 Vienna (RJ)
06:30 Athens (RJ)
06:30 Jeddah (RJ)
06:30 Dubai (RJ)
06:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:30 Beirut (RJ)

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. officials release photo of supergun

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. officials Friday released the first photos of Iraq's "supergun" and experts planned to study the artillery piece further and draw up plans to demolish it. Iraq, which earlier denied building "superguns," admitted in July that it was developing the so-called "doomsday" weapon capable of firing chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, as well as conventional shells, up to 1,600 kilometres. Under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire, Iraq was required to disclose all of its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, as well as its Scud-type and other ballistic missiles. Iraq admitted to U.N. inspectors that it had a 51 metre gun with a 35-centimetre diameter barrel at a site 180 kilometres north of Baghdad. It said the gun had been tested. It also admitted having other massive steel tubes, including one intended to be used as part of a separate 100-centimetre diameter gun. If that were assembled, it would be the largest artillery piece in the world. Only the 35-centimetre diameter gun has been assembled. The ceasefire requires that a U.N. commission inspect all of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and research programmes and that it destroy or eliminate certain weapons. Some ballistic missiles already have been destroyed and the "supergun" and components also are to be eliminated. Western intelligence officials have said that the smaller gun could have a range of hundreds of kilometres, while the larger "supergun" could fire shells 1,600 kilometres; to Tel Aviv, Tehran or Cairo.

Newspaper says Yemeni pilot killed in crash

OUAGADOUGOU (R) — A Yemeni pilot was killed and another was seriously injured when their Fokker F-27 airliner crashed in northern Burkina Faso last week, the official daily Sidwaya reported. The plane belonging to the West African state of Guinea-Bissau was being flown home empty after repairs in the Nigerian city of Kaduna. Sidwaya said it crashed on the night of Aug. 14-15 near Bani, 300 kilometres north of Ouagadougou.

Uncle seeks nephew raised by Palestinian guerrilla

BEIRUT (R) — The uncle of a Christian Lebanese teenager raised by a Palestinian guerrilla since his parents were killed 16 years ago is trying to win custody of him. Youssef Fadel has appointed a lawyer to apply for custody of his nephew, Rafiq Abu Haidar, relatives said. The guerrilla picked up the 10-month-old boy when his parents were killed in a 1975 attack on the town of Damour, 18 kilometres south of Beirut. Mr. Fadel began his search for his nephew after hearing that he was living in the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hilweh about 22 kilometres south of Damour, the relatives added.

Man arrested in Israeli-Arab phone scheme

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — A man has been charged with defrauding long-distance telephone companies in a scheme to link Israeli and Arab callers via the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said. There are no direct telephone communications between Israel and Arab states, and investigators said they have found similar schemes linking them through a series of U.S. cities. Amen Salm, 39, was arrested Friday. He is charged with failing to pay for thousands of dollars worth of telephone calls to Israel and various Middle Eastern countries and of using false identification to rent the Albuquerque apartment to which the calls were billed. U.S. Magistrate William Deaton ordered Mr. Salm held pending a hearing Monday. If convicted, he could face up to ten years in prison and more than \$250,000 in fines. Mr. Salm set up a business that involved using three-way conference connections to route calls from Israel through his U.S. telephone number to Arab states, said FBI agent Doug Beldon. On Aug. 19, Mr. Salm ran up a \$3,300 phone bill on 300 calls in a single night, Mr. Beldon said. Investigators do not know the details of the phone conversations, the FBI agent said. "We are also aware of other individuals believed to be of Middle Eastern descent committing identical-type crimes in other cities, as well," Mr. Beldon said. "It appears that these individuals may be working in cooperation with each other."

Bakhtiar's daughter dies of heart attack

CANNES, France (AP) — The daughter of former Iranian premier Shahpour Bakhtiar who was assassinated in Paris this month has died of a heart attack in southern France, sources close to her family said Friday. Viviane Bakhtiar, 49, died at her home in Cannes Thursday, the sources said. She was one of Mr. Bakhtiar's four children. Her brother Guy, a police officer in charge of security for their father, arrived in Cannes Friday, the sources said. Mr. Shahpour Bakhtiar was slain Aug. 6 at his home outside Paris. Police believe a trio of Iranians, one of them a family friend, stabbed Mr. Bakhtiar and his top aide to death. Police followed the trail of the suspected assassins to Geneva, where one of them was arrested Wednesday. France has requested his extradition. Mr. Bakhtiar, the last premier who served with the late Shah of Iran, was active in the Iranian exile community and was ardently opposed to the fundamentalist regime in Tehran. French police want to interrogate

Financial independence: The key to success in upcoming elections?

The ability to attract the Gulf returnee's vote could be decisive

This is the final article of a four-part series on the establishment of political parties in Jordan as part of its ongoing democratisation movement. In this article, the importance of financial resources independent of foreign parties is discussed. Also, the writer looks at the expected impact of the Gulf returnees on the balance of power between the various parties.

By Mariam M. Shabbir
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With an influx of over 250,000 Jordanians from the Gulf states as a result of the latest war in the Middle East, Jordan's political scene is likely to be affected as a result of this sudden increase in potential voters.

The unexpected population growth, along with the resulting increase in an electoral constituency and a planned widening of popular bases of political parties in the Kingdom, has increased the need for quick adaptation by the parties and groupings to the new status quo.

Analysts believe that the quarter of a million Jordanians, who came mostly from Kuwait, could play a significant role in deciding future elections in the Kingdom.

"Not having participated in the last elections due to their absence and not having been familiarised with the liberalisation of the political situation in the country could initially be a draw back in terms of wide participation among the 'returnees from the Gulf'," said a leading political analyst recently.

But many political activists feel that the "Gulf Jordanians," as they are commonly known, will play a significant role in a power triangle pitting the leftist-nationalist coalition, the Islamist groups and the emerging conservative coalition against each other.

"These votes are up for grabs," said an independent participant at the upcoming Conservative Party Congress in early September.

While leftist parties have worked out wage percentages to be paid to the party, they believe that they will begin "party-investments" to generate more badly needed income for their organisations.

"The Islamist parties and the Muslim Brotherhood," says Mr. Hourani, "have enormous funds because they all pay the Islamic tax (zaka) and because they have made large investments which produce great returns."

"This is what we also want to do," Mr. Hourani said.

The conservative coalition is expected to raise most of its funds through large contributions from wealthy members as well as nominal fees from members.

"We expect that fund raising will not be a problem if we are organised," said Al Ahd leader Retired Brigadier General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

"Fund raising is the least of our concerns," Mr. Majali said.

Meanwhile, officials say that the possibility exists that the government would give some financial aid to Jordanian parties depending on how many parties exist and the number of registered members they have.

had until recently been limited to the very committed, whose financial resources were often scarce, underground parties were forced to accept financial help from their sister organisations in other Arab capitals. Such financial aid from outside of Jordan and from political organisations and foreign governments, however, will be banned in a democratic Jordan.

"Now that political parties will be allowed to participate in their full capacity, they will have to follow the rules. As Jordanian parties become partners in the democratic process and as such must be independent of all other political organisations and governments outside Jordan as stated in the National Charter," said the high ranking analyst.

Financial independence is a large part of the independence of political parties referred to in "recently ratified National Charter."

Because parties had been working clandestinely for the past 30 years, their budgets were rather small. Now that they are allowed to expand, they will have to look for financing from within Jordan.

Most leftist parties, as the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JDPD) and the Jordan Democratic Party (JDP), ask that their party members pay dues proportional to their income. The percentage of the income paid is also proportional to the actual income.

Finances

The choice of party will also result in possible financial donations by some of the richer returnees.

Because political participation



Tayseer Abdul Jabbar

Jordan to get help in implementing environmental strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCWA) is ready to offer Jordan assistance to protect its environment and in implementing its national environmental strategy, ESCWA Executive Secretary General in Jordan Tayseer Abdul Jabbar announced Saturday.

By implementing the strategy, Jordan will be the third country in the world to prepare and put into force a national strategy that would take charge of all matters related to the protection of the environment, Mr. Abdul Jabbar said.

He made the statement at a meeting with Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salem Al Zoubi, who on Wednesday announced the completion of the national strategy.

Discussions at the meeting related to ESCWA's operations and activities and the implementation of the Kingdom's environmental strategy. The two sides also discussed Jordan's participation in an international conference next year in Brazil to discuss questions related to the protection of the earth's environment.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Arab ministers in charge of the protection of the environment will hold a conference in Cairo next month to coordinate Arab countries' position with regard to the coming international conference, the "Earth Summit."

In his statement at a press conference on Wednesday, Mr. Zoubi said that the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment will present a detailed plan of various projects to be implemented under the national strategy and will submit requests to various world organisations for assistance to finance it.

The strategy was prepared over the past three years by ministry experts in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and with financial help from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The strategy was prepared over the past three years by ministry experts in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and with financial help from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Allied blockade of Aqaba costing Jordan \$20 million annually

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S.-led navies enforcing a United Nations embargo against Iraq are causing immense financial losses for Jordan by harassing ships headed for the sea port of Aqaba, according to Tawfiq Kwar, head of the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association (JSAA).

He told Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times that harassment continues despite Jordan's protests against the continued search and delay of cargo vessels carrying goods imported by Jordanian merchants.

In the first half of August, the allied navies turned away or delayed the arrival at Aqaba of at least 62 vessels, claiming that the names and addresses on the goods manifest were not clear or because the search teams who climbed on board the vessels found it difficult to search the containers, according to Mr. Kwar.

The delay caused by the search and the turning away of ships heading for Aqaba, coupled with

Allied warships stationed in the Tiran Straits at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba have enforced tough inspection orders since the Gulf war ended in February.

The searching of the ships obstruct shipping operations and delay the arrival of vessels at the port, costing importers hundreds of thousands of dollars or extra expenses, Mr. Kwar said.

According to Mr. Kwar, the container vessels demand charge an extra \$12,000 to \$15,000 a day for the delay in addition to fuel costs and other expenses they incur in docking at other ports in the region. He said each trip costs up to \$300,000 extra because of the delay caused by the foreign navies and their search of the cargo on board the ships.

The delay caused by the search and the turning away of ships heading for Aqaba, coupled with

the extra expenses involved in delaying the loading of vessels out-bound national products, is costing Jordan up to \$20 million annually, according to an estimate by Mr. Kwar.

In an earlier interview, he said that the harassment is crippling Aqaba because the allies demand that all cargo and containers on any ship heading for the port be accessible to inspection.

Jordan has repeatedly said that it was fully complying with the sanctions against Iraq, since its biggest export market.

According to Mr. Kwar, ships are sometimes stopped for several days before getting clearance to enter the Aqaba Port and some of their containers are forced to be discharged in nearby ports.

The port of Aqaba, one of Jordan's main sources of income, in the past provided a net revenue of about JD 44 million a year.

Bulk of Iraq-Kuwait licence plates changed; fate rest under study

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is studying appeals made by expatriates from Kuwait who could not register their vehicles with Jordanian authorities to change their Iraq-Kuwait licence plates before the Aug. 15 deadline and a decision is expected soon, informed sources said Saturday.

Officials from the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance and Customs and the Ministry of Interior held a round of talks Saturday but it was not clear whether they reached a final decision.

However, "in view of the government's understanding of the problems faced by expatriates, I expect the decision to be favourable," said a senior Finance Ministry source.

"But the new grace period will be rather short," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

According to Mohammad Musa Gharaybeh, director of the Amman Customs Department, 12,500 vehicles bearing Iraq-Kuwait licence plates have been given Jordanian black number plates after the necessary fee has been paid by their owners before Aug. 15.

The registration fees range from JD 50 to JD 155 for a period of six months depending on the size of the car's engine and other relevant features of the vehicle, Mr. Gharaybeh told the Jordan Times.

Owners of 29 vehicles with Iraq-Kuwait licence plates had started the registration process but could not complete the registration formalities by the deadline. These cases are now being handled by the Customs Department, Mr. Gharaybeh said.

"We are not accepting any new registration applications pending a decision by the Ministry of Interior," he said.

The customs director said he did not expect the remaining unregistered vehicles with Iraq-Kuwait number plates owned by Jordanians to exceed 1,000.

Vehicles bearing Kuwait plates are not affected by the Jordanian move. They remain governed by the standing regulations on expatriates' vehicles entering Jordan with the exception that their owners could continue to run them in Jordanian streets after paying prescribed fees to the Vehicles Licensing Department without having to go through an exit-and-reentry process every three months. Estimates of the number such vehicles range between 8,000 and 15,000 most of them having entered Jordan before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

The switching of Kuwait number plates to Iraq-Kuwait plates was made mandatory by the Iraqi government in mid-August 1990, two weeks after the invasion and following Baghdad's proclamation of Kuwait as its 19th province.

Thousands of cars bearing Iraq-Kuwait plates can still be seen in Jordan's streets. Vehicles Department officials said most of these were registered in the name of Iraqis and thus were treated as foreign vehicles with permission for temporary stay in Jordan.

Several hundred vehicles with Kuwait or Iraq-Kuwait plates remain with the Customs Department, which follows a practice of auctioning off such vehicles if owners do not turn up during a grace period of three months.

Customs inspectors have also uncovered dozens of cases where scrap yards had stripped spare parts from vehicles which entered Jordan during the Gulf crisis. Some of these vehicles were abandoned by evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq or bought illegally by Jordanians who in turn sold them as scrap.

Spare parts dealers recall that Asian expatriates who fled Kuwait permissibly had sold their cars for throwaway prices as low as JD 50 in Amman before boarding evacuation flights.

"The time has now come for the buyers to pay for violating the law," a senior customs official said.

But, "it is very difficult to catch the culprits," spare-parts dealer said. "In many cases, the scrap yards could not bother to establish the identity of those who sold them the vehicles and there was no paper changing hands."

Gorbachev resigns as party chief

(Continued from page 1)

1988, and in succeeding years he strengthened the role of what formally had been largely a ceremonial post.

Earlier Saturday, hundreds of thousands of Soviets turned out to bury three men who died resisting the failed hardline coup, and the Ukraine declared its independence from the discredited central government.

A politically weakened Gorbachev appeared Friday in the Russian Parliament and announced the firing of supporters of the coup or those who remained passive.

In a sign of a revolutionary shift in power, Mr. Gorbachev replaced many with a new generation approved by Mr. Yeltsin and other republican leaders. He also said he and Mr. Yeltsin agreed to transfer power in case of emergency.

The little Baltic republics and three other small republics — Moldova, Georgia and Armenia — have been seeking to restore their pre-war independence for more than 18 months.

But none of these can be compared to the Ukraine, grain basket of the Soviet Union and second only in influence to Mr. Yeltsin's Russian federation in economic power and significance.

Saturday's Supreme Soviet (parliament) vote in Kiev puts the entire future of the Soviet Union as a single state in doubt.

"In view of the deadly threat posed to our country on the night of Aug. 18-19 (the night of the coup)," and expressing a thousand-year-old tradition of statehood, the Supreme Soviet solemnly proclaims the independence of the Ukraine," it said.

The vote, approved by 346 of the total of 450 deputies present, called a referendum for Dec. 1 "to confirm the act of independence," but said the Ukraine was an independent state from the moment of proclamation.

The drive for independence was sparked off by the destruction of the conservative nucleus which had blocked independence and opposed devolution from within the Kremlin.

Almost every leading right-winger in Soviet politics has been disgraced or discredited for giving the coup support, or hesitating to condemn it.

On Saturday, the party's national newspaper, Pravda, was absent from newsstands after Mr.

Yeltsin banned them and five other Communist papers (see page 6).

Meanwhile, the governments of Moldova and Kirghizia seized Communist Party buildings and assets, and several republics outlawed the party altogether.

Lithuanian leaders planned to put local party chiefs on trial, and thousands rallied in the Ukraine demanding resignation of their Communist-dominated government.

The Ukrainian legislature Saturday passed 321-2 an independence resolution that went beyond an earlier declaration of sovereignty, said Maxim Myakinsky, of the government-run Ukrainian Information Service.

It will go into effect after a Dec. 1 referendum — the same day that Ukrainian presidential elections are scheduled, according to Interfax and other reports from the scene.

The Ukrainian legislature also passed a law banning police, soldiers, employees of the KGB security police and the prosecutor's office from membership in any political party.

In Moscow, protesters Saturday pulled down two more statues of Communist heroes. A statue of Bolshevik leader Mikhail Kalinin on a main street leading to the Kremlin and one of Lenin associate Yakov Sverdlov in front of the Bolshoi Theatre, were hauled down.

Mr. Yeltsin formally recognised the independence of Estonia and Latvia, two of the three separatist Baltic republics.

Latvian leader Anatolijs Gorbunovs told reporters Mr. Yeltsin signed a decree on Latvia at a meeting in the Russian Parliament while TASS news agency published a second decree on Estonia.

Mr. Gorbachev earlier told thousands of people mourning the three victims of the attempted coup that the right-wing Communists who briefly seized power could not be forgiven.

Mr. Yeltsin, now the pretender to many of Mr. Gorbachev's powers, bade an emotional farewell to "our heroes, our protectors, our saviours."

Hundreds of thousands of people carrying white-blue-red Russian national flags, flowers and black-bordered portraits gathered for the funeral ceremonies at the foot of the red-brick Kremlin walls.

Sharon: U.S. reneged on promise

(Continued from page 1)

assurances to avoid the problem of who would sign a memorandum for peaceful Palestinians.

Mr. Sharon, top aide to Mr. Shamir, said he had not heard of Mr. Baker's plans to return to Israel and called the report on the memorandum "all speculation."

Israel had been working on the document with a U.S. team earlier in the month and had heard

nothing about the issue recently, Mr. Sharon said.

He added that "because of events in the Soviet Union everything was busy and we expect that in a few days we will resume our work with the Americans."

Mr. Shamir said in an interview published Friday in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth he was not sure the conference would convene as scheduled.

Ministry of Industry and Trade to introduce computerised filing

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade is planning to install a computerised system to speed up various types of work and has engaged the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to help carry out consultancy work for the project which should be completed in 18 months.

An agreement signed by JEA and the ministry Saturday provided for the former to conduct consultancy services for the computerised system project which is to be carried out in the course of the ministry's comprehensive development plan, according to ministry Secretary General Ibrahim Badran who signed the deal with JEA Director General Mohammad Arafeh.

"With the installation of the new system, administrative procedures at the ministry will be facilitated, with the staff saving time and effort. The computer system to be installed will later be linked to other computers installed in other government offices which offer services and information related to industry and trade," Dr. Badran said.

He said that the cost of installing the computerised system



Ibrahim Badran

would reach JD 240,000.

According to Dr. Badran, the Ministry of Industry and Trade is currently taking measures to dispose of its filing system once the computerised system has been installed. At present, the ministry has 200,000 files whose information and date will be fed into the computer before they will be destroyed, Dr. Ibrahim added.

Most of the files, he said, deal with industry and trade businesses which are handled by the ministry.

Jordan to take part in Damascus International Fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in the Damascus international fair, due to open in the Syrian capital on Aug. 28, and 97 Jordanian industrial and commercial firms will display their products at the two-week event, according to an announcement Wednesday by Dr. Rima Khalaf, director of the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) which is affiliated to the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The participating companies will display pharmaceutical, plastic, engineering, leather, construction and agricultural products in addition to oriental handicraft, paper, stationery items, cosmetics, chemical products, furniture and other products, Dr. Khalaf said in a statement.

She commended the Jordanian firms which responded to a JCCC call to participate in the annual Damascus fair and said that this year the fair would witness the display of new Jordanian products of very high quality.

Participating in the fair aims at orienting the visitors on the

Jordanian products and at enabling Jordanian businessmen and industrialists to get acquainted with products from other participating countries, Dr. Khalaf said.

At its meeting in Amman, Tuesday evening, the Council of Ministers approved Jordan's participation in the Damascus international fair and said that Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb would attend the opening ceremony.

Dr. Khalaf said that the Damascus fair would offer the participating Jordanian firms all facilities to conduct direct sales to the public and to conduct dealings with the Syrian and other merchants, particularly regarding products which are allowed to be imported by Syria like fertilisers, equipment used in the drip irrigation system, leather and pharmaceutical products.

According to Dr. Khalaf, Jordan's products will be displayed at the fair on an area of 600 square metres. Twenty six Arab and foreign nations will be represented.

1.5m students go back to school

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 1.5 million students at various stages went back to school Saturday at the start of the new scholastic year 1991-1992 and, according to Ministry of Education estimates, they will be taught by 53,000 teachers.

The ministry's head of the Training Department Khaled Al Sheikh said that the ministry had made available some 3,600 schools for the current scholastic year and absorbed some 50,000 returnee children.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Sheikh said that all facilities for the successful start of the new year had been provided including maintenance work and the provision of textbooks and other requirements.

Ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri said on television that the Kingdom expected to receive a further 20,000 students returning from the Gulf region during this scholastic year. Most of the returnees and their children, he said, are concentrated in Amman, Irbid and Zarqa where sufficient schools have been made available.

The ministry has kept the rented school buildings and introduced a two-shift system in some of them in order to absorb the additional students this year, Dr. Masri added.

He said that the absorption of the additional children necessitated the employment of an additional 1,500 men and women teachers.

According to Mr. Sheikh, the new scholastic year witnesses two important developments in the course of implementing the resolutions of the 1987 National Educational Conference. He said that teachers this year will give



Munther Al Masri

training guided by books introduced for the first time to the first, fifth and ninth grades, in accordance with the new educational plan. Furthermore, the beginning of the scholastic year coincided with the start of the implementation of on-the-job teachers training programme to upgrade the qualifications and improve the skill of the teachers employed in government and private schools, Mr. Sheikh said.

He said that a total of 13,000 teachers would benefit from the courses and would be oriented on proper means of teaching the newly introduced textbooks.

According to Mr. Sheikh, training of teachers will continue throughout the scholastic year.

Coinciding with the start of the new scholastic year Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat announced that parents, both mothers and fathers, can attend school events and festivals organised by girls schools.

The minister's order reversed one introduced by former Minister Abdullah Al Akaleh who said that fathers should not be present during festivals at girls schools. The former minister's decision drew very strong protests from the parents and from the Jordanian media.

GUVS announces aid, plans for Jordan, W. Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — The Executive Council of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Saturday announced its financial assistance and development programme in Jordan and said it would offer voluntary and charitable societies in the Kingdom and the West Bank half a million dinars.

A GUVS statement said that JD 259,000 would be distributed to 340 societies in Jordan and JD 70,000 would go to 20 rehabilitation centres caring for the handicapped. A total of JD 85,000 will reach 195 charitable and voluntary organisations operating in the occupied West Bank, the statement said.

The statement said that JD 200,000 have been allocated to finance GUVS buildings and operations in the coming three years.

A total of JD 14,000 will be a contribution towards the construction of six charitable societies in Jordan.

GUVS will continue to support

the rehabilitation centres caring for the handicapped children and in the coming year, JD 50,000 will be earmarked to finalise building each of the five rehabilitation centres, the statement pointed out.

It said that GUVS would pursue efforts to provide equipment and machinery used for training the handicapped children, and it has made available JD 6,000 to help cover part of the supplies.

In this respect, the statement said, GUVS will supply three societies with kindergarten facilities.

GUVS council has decided to study the prospect of organising an exhibition to display production in the southern region of Maan.

The council also decided to set up a summer village at the summer resort of Zay for the benefit of the handicapped people. Designs for the project, he added, will be completed before the end of 1991.

Military Education Programme to be implemented in October

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education and the People's Army Command decided in a meeting held Saturday to start implementing the Military Education Programme as of October for first secondary class male students.

The meeting, which was held under the chairmanship of Education Minister Eid Al Dahiyat and in the presence of the ministry's Secretary General Munther Al Masri and the People's Army commander, discussed the practical steps that should be taken to start the programme in which more than 40,000 male

and female students will participate.

Director of the ministry's Student Affairs and Educational Activities Department Hassan Al-Akhalid said the programme will include lectures on military education and students will be trained on civil defence works in addition to the military training they will receive during the programme period.

The programme, he said, will include 54 classes for male students and 48 classes for female students. Training will be on Thursdays for nine weeks, Mr. Al-Akhalid said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

مجلس النشر العربية سبيلية مستقلة للنشر بالانجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Wonders of new world

AS THE Gorbachev-Yeltsin contest settles into a reconciliation, the fate of the communist order in the Soviet Union will be sealed largely by the terms of the settlement. There is little doubt that the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, is now aiming for the total disbandment of the Communist Party not only in his republic but also in the rest of the Soviet Union. This stance is clearly in stark contrast with the posture of the Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev, who seeks to reform the communist path but not bury it. The odds, however, are in favour of the Russian president rather than the Soviet leader and it appears to be a matter of time before Yeltsin assumes full control over the entire country. This eventful change in the leadership of the Soviet Union and the colour of its system has been accelerated by the position of the Western capitals, notably Washington, which now have more influence than ever over policies of the USSR and the conditions for its integration into the new international order. It looks like it is also too late for Gorbachev to outbid Yeltsin in the struggle for power still raging in the Soviet Union. Even his belated decision to quit his leadership of the Communist Party and dissolve it can be viewed as desperate attempts by Gorbachev to preempt his arch political rival.

The implications of these dramatic transformations within the Soviet system are many, both for the world as well as for the Arab countries. To begin with the entire world is heading for uni-polar international structure under the aegis of the West. Gone are the days of bi-polarism in the international arena unless and until another force or a conglomeration of powers strike a cohesive structure between themselves and stand up as a counter super military, political and economic structure. This is unlikely to happen soon but the possibility exists for the future since it is in the nature of things to move towards equilibrium.

Meanwhile the Arab World as well as the developing world will have to co-exist with the new international order and reconcile themselves with it as best as they can. The fate of the Non-Aligned Movement as well as that of the Organisation of Islamic Conference are obviously at stake. They may either jump on the bandwagon or dissipate into oblivion, at least in the short run. As for the Arab League, it will have to shift gears and assume a different profile internationally and regionally. Yet the most ardent impact of current evolution in the Soviet Union is on the expansion and consolidation of democracy and parliamentary system of government. There is no doubt that henceforth political pluralism in the world will magnify across the face of the earth but up to a limit. This limit will be imposed by the new international order, whatever its final definition will be. At the end of the tunnel, the world may very well end up with artificial pluralism within most countries but with no pluralism on the outside. The interaction between domestic pluralism and uni-polarism on the outside could be dramatic and charged with tensions and turmoil. Statesmen and political scientists would have to reckon now with the possibility that the new world will be much different from that we have lived in for many decades.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Saturday tackled the aftermath of the developments in the Soviet Union and said that they should by no means divert the Arab countries' attention from their own problems and from taking serious action to deal with the accumulating issues of common concern to the Arab masses. The paper said that international events should not distract the Arabs from the events in the Arab arena. The Arabs can reap no benefit at all from the developments in the Soviet political scene or any other scene that are not of real bearing on their interest; they should rather give attention to the prevailing weakness in Arab ranks and the ongoing hostile campaign being directed against one another, the paper said. Needless to say that Jordan has been drawing the Arab countries' attention to the need to deal with national issues before anything else and calling for concerted efforts to restore solidarity among Arab countries in the wake of the Gulf crisis, the paper added. It said that unless the Arabs put their house in order, they can benefit nothing from developments elsewhere in the world. The paper called on Arab leaders to join efforts and unite their stand vis-a-vis their own issues and not to leave to the others the task of deciding the future of the Arab Nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday described the recent developments in the Soviet Union as a theatrical performance designed to give further support to Mr. Gorbachev, the head of the American system in the Soviet Union. Faded Al Fares said that the performance was also designed to give prominence to Boris Yeltsin, the Jewish politician who heads the Russian Federation which is fast becoming a colony of the United States. The writer said that the recent developments were necessary in the course of implementing an American plan to dismember the Soviet Union rendering it a federation of weak states. He said that Mr. Gorbachev did nothing except serve the interests of the U.S. and its Western allies because under his rule the American Zionist lobby had the upper hand in the affairs of the Communist Party. Under Mr. Gorbachev, said the writer, the Soviet Union's gross national product sharply declined and the standard of living dropped while hunger spread as the value of the ruble declined by 98 per cent. The writer said that under Mr. Gorbachev the Soviet people had been transformed into a group of hungry beggars awaiting American bread with humiliation. Under Mr. Gorbachev the Soviet Union lost its character as a major world power.

'I try to integrate all three roles, but His Majesty is always my greatest and my first responsibility'

Queen Noor looks back at past 13 years: It's a continuous process of transformation in the service of Her King, children and Jordanian family

Rami Khoury and Nermeen Murad conducted several interviews with Her Majesty Queen Noor which touched upon Her Majesty's personal as well as public life. On the occasion of her 40th birthday they compiled the following article in which Her Majesty looked back on the last thirteen years and on her current efforts and aspirations for the future.

WHEN Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor were married in June 1978, Queen Noor knew that her life would be completely transformed by her new and instant responsibilities to husband, family, household and public duties. Today, thirteen years later, she seems to have adapted comfortably to the new dimensions of her life. As she celebrates her 40th birthday this week, Queen Noor continues to balance personal and public responsibilities which she also sees as opportunities to serve her family, her people and her country.

Her marriage thrust upon her the responsibilities of an extensive family and household; it ushered in a period of metamorphosis from private to public life, from a focus on her personal and professional growth to an emphasis on working for the greater development of Jordanian society as a whole. Since the early 1980s, she has also played an active role in expanding and developing Jordan's image and relations internationally.

In a series of talks with the Jordan Times over the past three years, Queen Noor looked back on the last thirteen years, and on her current efforts and her aspirations for the future. She discussed several aspects of her work in Jordan, and her travels and endeavours abroad on behalf of Jordan and of what she considers to be pan-Arab, and even universal, issues.

The links between the two focal points of her life today — family and work — would recur frequently in our discussions. Those overlapping links between her family and her work are perhaps more difficult to separate in her case than they are for other "working mothers" — a demographic group she identifies with very strongly.

"I do not try to balance my responsibilities as a wife, mother or Queen according to any set formula. It is almost impossible in our way of life to have a set pattern, but I follow my instincts and I try to integrate those roles as much as possible. After thirteen years, the pressures of responsibilities outside the home have increased to an extent that I have had to attempt to set more rigid priorities so that I have time for my family, husband and children."

Did she need to differentiate among her roles as wife, mother and Queen? And which of these roles and responsibilities does she now perceive to be most important?

"I try to integrate all three roles, but His Majesty is always my greatest and my first responsibility. I feel that by supporting him and by caring for him — he is a very self-sufficient human being — but nonetheless to care for him to the best of my abilities is my most important role, because in doing so I am also serving my larger Jordanian family and the traditions and values that I feel are critical to the well-being of the nation and country in general. I also feel that through my responsibility to this family, and my commitment to work for the development of the larger Jordanian family, that I am serving him as well. The three roles are all the same role, really, which is why I cannot put one above another. But I would put wife at the top. I don't mean a wife in the usual sense; I mean a wife who is also a public servant."

There were few models to follow when she first assumed the public duties, family obligations and personal responsibilities that came with marriage. Was His Majesty the King, perhaps, the only person in this situation who could provide some guidance?

"I had to grow into this role on my own, really," she says. "My role is a contribution that I try to make to his life, rather than one he should make to mine. We try as much as we can to collaborate together and partner one another in a way that first addresses his needs as father of this country, and then those of our more immediate family. At the beginning, His Majesty said that he had complete faith and confidence in me and in what I would do. That

was the greatest gift imaginable in the early years of marriage."

A strong link between her personal life and her public duties has been the concept of "family" — a particularly Jordanian notion which King Hussein has often invoked.

"This is an ancient tradition," she says, "this notion of a family that has endured in a special way in our society, and that has been sustained in an extraordinary way by the continuity of King Hussein's relationships with his people and his country over generations; this brings special responsibilities to bear on the Hashemite family, on His Majesty's family in Jordan. I am very conscious of these responsibilities, and I try to impart an understanding of them to our children, because I feel that, more than the privileges they might enjoy as members of the Royal Family, it is so important that they understand their responsibilities as members of the Hashemite family. It is important that they seek to develop qualities of character which will enable them to serve their country well, in whatever individual capacity they choose, and that each in their individual way exemplify the best qualities of the Hashemite tradition and the Arab-Islamic tradition. My perception of the Jordanian family begins with the concept of our national family, and my feeling is that it is a duty of all of us in the family to complement the King's efforts; to reach out and be accessible to people — to be unifying and cohesive elements in the family and in society, and to motivate, stimulate and promote development of our society on all levels, while sustaining and respecting our traditions."

After only a few minutes of our conversation, Queen Noor had already introduced the several themes that would continuously weave in and out of our subsequent discussions — young people who could grow up to do their best, and to be the best they could; Jordanians having both an opportunity and an obligation to serve the greater good of their society by developing their own personal talents and interests; and looking to the future while respecting the legacy of the past.

Queen Noor's conversation, like many of her public remarks in Jordan and abroad, is punctuated with repeated references to the common values, morality and principles which bind peoples around the world which have largely defined her own life to date. When asked how she relates the dictates of Islam to her personal life and to her work in society, she responds:

"The personal values which I grew up with are compatible with the spiritual message of Arab and Islamic traditions. I was born and educated in another country, but I have always been conscious and proud of my Arab roots. I was educated and raised by my family to develop myself as an individual as fully and completely as possible, in preparation to be of service to my community. My father's years as a public servant were years of personal hardship and sacrifice, but the most personally rewarding years of his life; his commitment to the service of his country as an Arab-American was always an inspiring factor in my life. And my mother has always worked on projects benefiting the underprivileged, and has been continuously active in numerous world affairs organisations. I grew up in a family that valued and respected social traditions and moral principles which mirror the Arab-Islamic traditions by which I am raising my children in Jordan today."

"I feel as a Muslim that today, especially, we all have a responsibility to promote an accurate image of the humanism and universal character of Islam, and in a variety of ways I am striving to serve as a bridge between Jordan and the outside world. I think it is very important for all of us to convey a more realistic and constructive image of Islam to the rest of the world, where there is so much confusion and misunderstanding about the message, the spirituality and the substance of Islam. As international percep-



tions of political issues in the Middle East have become so intermingled with spiritual and religious issues in recent years, I find there is more international interest in Islam, but not necessarily in the realities and facts of our traditions. If I am in any measure to fulfill my responsibility to act as a bridge and means of meaningful communication between the Arab and Islamic world and the West, I think it is important to take the initiative and to promote honest and meaningful discussion of all important contemporary issues."

The sense of direction and self-confidence which now characterise Queen Noor's approach to her work did not develop instantly after marriage. Many of the projects and community development efforts she was involved in immediately after marriage stemmed from her personal and professional interests before marriage, such as environmental issues, building and construction codes and designs, preservation of architectural heritage, exercise, health and the promotion of better sports facilities throughout the country. "As my family grew," she says, "I learned much through the eyes and needs of my own children and their physical, emotional, recreational and educational needs. I started to focus on new issues related to children, such as early childhood education, school curricula, teacher training, medical diagnostic and pediatric facilities, or cultural development facilities. A theme that is common to many of our projects at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation is the fact that a healthy population must begin life healthy, which is why we have stressed children's needs — and the particular ability and responsibility of mothers and teachers to better meet those needs at home and at school. I have certainly become a more competent mother and wife through the personal experiences I have had at home, with my children's schools and through my work."

By 1985, her personal involvement in scores of different projects and programmes created such pressures on her time and on the resources of her small office staff that she sought a more efficient mechanism to integrate these efforts and human resources that would help maximise and centralise her contribution to national social and cultural development efforts. The answer was the establishment of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in 1985 to bring together the various projects and activities that she became involved with after marriage. As these had become so diverse, encompassing many private and public institutions and addressing a variety of the needs of society that could be integrated, the foundation was created to make better use of indigenous human and material resources. Queen Noor recalls: "Having always believed that one must use imagination and great resourcefulness to make much of little — and that is the story of Jordan's success — I felt it was logical to bring together these

tradition, imagination and vision by encouraging the young, especially, to open their minds, and to harness their energies with faith and confidence in themselves. There is so much talent and imagination out there that often go to waste because people are not encouraged to try out new ideas as much as they should; or one generation does not give the next generation wholehearted support, and does not pass on to it the impetus to become involved and to explore new directions. I think that is one of my greatest frustrations, when I see the wasted human talent and potential."

She is aware that the status and increased participation of women in economic and social development issues is an area where progress must be carefully balanced against traditional attitudes. She thinks it is "inevitable" that women will become increasingly involved in the development of this country, but does not believe women necessarily have to work outside the home or conform to new roles for women developing elsewhere in the world. "There is no formula," she says. "It is simply inevitable that women will and must play a broader role, and have to be encouraged by all in society because the woman is still the key to the balanced and enlightened development of society. She is the vital influence at home, and no one denies the importance of that role. That is why there is so much controversy over whether she should remain at home or not, because it is accepted that her role there is crucial, and should

"I learned much through the eyes and needs of my own children and their physical, emotional, recreational and educational needs. I started to focus on new issues related to children, such as early childhood education, school curricula, teacher training, medical diagnostic and pediatric facilities, or cultural development facilities."

never be compromised; and there are limits to the capability of any working woman and mother, and I include myself in this category, to achieve that balance between her family responsibilities, her own individual needs and talents, and the requirements of her larger community." She points to the foundations' Women in Development Project, with its unconventional pioneer pilot projects such as the bee-keeping and honey production, the medicinal herbs, the rabbit farm, the garment and light footwear project, and the traditional dolls project, the Quality of Life project's bas-

ket and broom-making scheme in Sweimeh, and the Bani Hamida Rug weaving projects as examples of attempts to link income-generating activities for women that are within the socially-accepted norms of society yet also permit women to participate more actively and productively in self-employment and community development efforts. The Women in Development and the Quality of Life projects have been so successful that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have used them as prototype models for development in the region.

The foundation's integrated development projects, most of which are oriented around women in one way or another, are very decentralised geographically, and are not only restricted to the capital region. Projects are located in Karak, Muab, Aqaba, Tafleh, Ma'an, Irbid, Zarqa, Mafraq, Salt, the Jordan Valley, Sweimeh, Al Bassah, Al Hashimiyyah, Al Mukheibeh, and Al Qureira.

Some of the obviously Amman-oriented projects, such as the National Music Conservatory, the Jubilee School, the Institute for Child Health and Development, the Children's Heritage and Science Museum, or the SOS Children's Village, are designed to serve as models for projects throughout the country. There is already a new SOS village to serve the Aqaba region, a Mobile Life and Science Museum whose objective is to reach children in remote rural areas, and the Institute for Child Health and Development is currently training personnel from different parts of the country. The idea behind almost every single project of the Foundation is to explore and develop new concepts for national development throughout the country in culture, education and social development. "The aim is to work out relevant and effective concepts in one region or institution, and then apply them throughout the country by offering them to other existing institutions that are already well established in their own communities, or by training staff from other parts of the country."

One of the role the Queen tries to play is that of being a "stimulator or catalyst," to promote and encourage the development of innovative ideas that can serve society well, while respecting essential and valuable traditions. She points to the Jerash Festival, for example, as an idea that became an innovative concept to promote the development of culture and the arts of a national level and to provide an arena for interaction and exchange on an international level. Today an accepted national institution, initially, it was greeted with some reserve and skepticism by some, and with enthusiasm by others. Queen Noor says "the festival truly has something to offer everyone, and it is promoting many of our oldest and finest traditions, while simultaneously presenting a wide range of art and culture from the rest of the Arab World and beyond. It has become a meeting place, while providing for an outward focus in people's interaction — whether among

(Continued on page 5)



Her Majesty Queen Noor with Her Royal Highness Princess Raiyah at Al Nodwa Palace

Queen Noor looks back at past 13 years

(Continued from page 4)

Jordanians, or between Jordanians and people from other countries. It has also encouraged artists, craftspeople and others involved in the festival to aspire to higher and higher standards, to explore their creative potential, and to engage in enriching and healthy competition with others, in order to excel and to be part of the festival.

In view of the severe economic challenges that Jordan has faced since late 1988, and particularly since August 1990, Queen Noor, like the rest of the country, has adjusted her efforts accordingly. The projects undertaken by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation now tend to focus more directly on income-generating activities.

"The economic crisis of 1988-1989 hit us swiftly and sharply, which made its impact rather more severe than it might have been had the economic adjustment process been phased in over several years. Nevertheless, we still would have had to come to terms with our economic realities, and perhaps the single most important one is our need to rely more on ourselves. That is why we have stepped up our efforts in income-generating projects, but ones that are part of a coherent and integrated community development approach based on available indigenous talent, resources and markets. I feel that one of the most valuable contributions that we can make today is to launch successful projects that increase family incomes, and enhance the ability of local communities to take charge of their own quality of life prospects, through planning and implementation of income-generating projects and community development schemes."

"Queen Noor is aware that this must be a gradualist approach, working with a few villages or urban neighbourhoods, developing successful prototypes, and then sharing that experience with others throughout the country. The work to date has already helped thousands of families, but national impact will take more time to be felt. The long-term aim is to increase the number of families that benefit from such an approach to community development. It is the best approach in the long run, she feels, because it is realistically grounded in indigenous national resources, and is based on developing human talent. It is also seen to be the most logical response to the immediate problems facing the economy. With a



Her Majesty Queen Noor participates in the planting of medicinal herbs on a visit to the Medicinal Herbs Project.

large number of people out of work and more families living at or below the poverty level, income-generation takes on a double value — it helps families weather the immediate storm, and it provides a base of human initiative and enterprise on which longer term national development can be built in a sustainable manner.

She explains: "We are always liable to the danger of treating economic development as something theoretical and intangible, while in fact it is a very human dynamic. It is the status and fate of hundreds of thousands of

Jordanian families who have a tradition of working hard to improve their own conditions and their broader national and pan-Arab environment. I am not a trained economist or development planner, but I can see the needs of our country in the short-term as clearly as anyone else who takes the time to look at what is happening all around us. Many families who have succumbed to unemployment or whose income cannot keep pace with rising prices are caught in a difficult squeeze."

The Gulf crisis spawned a series of domestic and regional

humanitarian issues. It was an opportunity for Queen Noor to speak out more forcefully about the latest round of human suffering in the region and to focus international attention on the essential underlying human aspects of the Middle East regions' economic problems and political challenges.

In view of her perception of how she can contribute most effectively to promoting a better understanding of the Jordanian and Arab/Islamic perspective on regional and global issues, Queen Noor has responded to requests to address audiences abroad. She makes a particular point of talking to international affairs organisations, and to professional, academic or political groups in Europe and North America, as she explains:

"I think the most frustrating thing to deal with is the perception abroad that Jordan is an underdeveloped country, conforming to all the age-old stereotypes of underdeveloped countries in this part of the world, most of which no longer apply to most Arab countries, and certainly not to Jordan. Then of course on another level, it is annoying to see Jordan's policy and positions being completely misconstrued as well. That's a problem of the moment; the first is a problem of history and generations, and they both join to obstruct our efforts."

She does not always anticipate specific achievements or results from her working trips abroad but agrees that in recent years, the most tangible or concrete results have been the visits to promote Jordan through travelling archaeological and ethnographic exhibitions. They have proved an effective means of broadening understanding abroad of Jordan's history and ethnic heritage, as well as demonstrating the importance we attach today to our historic traditions and the study of previous civilisations.

Queen Noor constantly works with both public and private individuals and institutions to explore new venues for exhibitions, such as the Jordanian antiquities exhibition that has toured Japan, Singapore and several European cities, the mosaics collection now touring Europe, and the Jordanian and Palestinian ethnographic items from the Widat Kawar collection. A tangible result has been an immediate increase in visitors to Jordan from the countries where the exhibitions were displayed. This also occurs after state visits, which seem to have an impact on people abroad by stimulating their interest in wanting to visit Jordan. The Queen feels it is important

that Jordan be seen more on the human level, through the faces of those who represent the country at all levels. "People abroad are very interested and very receptive, and that is something we should pay more attention to when we plan our trips, so that we can maximise all possibilities for constructive interaction — not just political or economic, but also socio-cultural," she says.

Soon after her marriage, Queen Noor found herself being invited to address audiences at some of the most distinguished international affairs organisations in the Western World, such as Harvard, Tufts, Oxford and Brookings. She saw these as opportunities to help spread and reinforce the message from Jordan that His Majesty King Hussein and others had conveyed over many years. She gradually developed a pattern that saw her deliver public lectures about a wide range of issues of concern to Jordan — whether social, economic, political with humanitarian implications or environmental.

"I did not plan a political role for myself, except when you view the political consequences of social development, which does have its political ramifications. In my visits abroad, I don't think I play a political role as much as the role of a communicator, and sometimes I try to be a voice of conscience to highlight political issues with humanitarian implications, in the United States in particular. It is a role that I have played and will continue to play when conditions are such that it is useful or important that a message be conveyed to certain groups of people by someone such as myself."

"How meaningful or useful has it been? Often we see the positive impact of such efforts as quickly overwhelmed or neutralised by current events; yet we must continue to remember and believe in the importance of face-to-face contact, because people are so important in promoting international relations between countries; I suppose all those who have been exposed to the Jordanian point of view — whenever, however or by whom — have been enriched by it and affected in a positive way. And when we do sometimes lose heart, that is because it is so terribly difficult to communicate effectively our aspirations, our dreams, and even our history, yet our efforts must continue. Just as King Hussein has always had the faith to carry on and persevere, and has never lost heart, so he sets an example to us all in the ultimate victory or success of what is right or just."

Jordanian economy may get a boost from expatriates' investment

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Over the past few months, with the increasing number of expatriates arriving, Jordan has been witnessing an investors' rush in various industrial and commercial projects. The investment is most certainly bound to bring hard currency into the country, but what does it mean for Jordan in the long-term?

The influx of expatriate expertise is placed into three categories by Dr. Mohammad Halaika, director of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

There are the skilled labourers working in the industrial and oil sectors, the highly qualified people in the service sector, such as management, banking, education and medical services, and there are the investors, people who have good financial status (because they had been investing in Kuwait or other countries) and are now looking for investment opportunities in Jordan.

Although there are no figures on how many companies or industries have been registered by expatriates alone, according to the Amman Chamber of Commerce, from January to July, the number of registered companies totalled 19,624. It is not known how many of the companies were registered by expatriates, but Dr. Halaika said that "there are many expatriates who have licences for establishing, small-scale industrial projects."

Small-scale investments are done mostly in areas such as textile, leather, spare parts and engineering industry, Dr. Halaika added.

There are two differing points of view about whether the rush will help solve the unemployment problem. "There is no way to deal with the unemployment problem except through investments," said Dr. Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Supply. "It is the only practical way, to invite everyone who has the financial and technical capability to invest. If the investor is lacking in know-how, the ministry and other institutions can help," he added.

Mohammad Asfour, chairman of the Federation of the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce, agreed saying that any form of investment means the creation of new jobs. "Ultimately it means an additional demand on labour, so the increase in the absorption of unemployed is directly proportional with the increase of investments."

Dr. Halaika, however, feels that investment may assist in certain sectors, but in the long run the unemployment figure is bound to increase. "It may help because some sectors need skilled labour. If we can absorb the first category (skilled labour) we will be able to avoid non-Jordanian employment."

The second category (highly qualified people) is "saturated." The investors, he continued, "have a good opportunity, but the final result will be a burden and the unemployment figure will increase" because of the already saturated sectors.

Even so, the expatriates, or anyone investing in industrial or commercial projects in the country are given the freedom to choose any project. "There are no restrictions," Dr. Badran told the Jordan Times.

"We do not feel there is any specific area congested with investment. We are encouraging anyone to invest provided the quality and prices are competitive, especially for export purposes," he added.

"It becomes the entrepreneur's responsibility to implement any project," Mr. Asfour said adding that putting stress on the market mechanism would inevitably give way to feasible projects.

The Chamber of Industry, however, advises expatriates not to invest in certain areas where there is "industrial congestion."

The JD 130 million received as aid and allocated for the expatriates to utilise in projects will help them invest in the country. "On the surface, it is a good amount," Dr. Halaika said. "We have to remember that these people will not be able to invest the whole amount in projects because they have to secure their financial stability first." This is why Jordan is witnessing a boom in construction and real estate sectors, he added.

Jordanian products are also found to be more competitive. "Many of the people are skilled or highly qualified so I think it is an asset to absorb the expatriates in our economic cycle," Dr. Halaika added. But he said that there was a lot to be done socially for the expatriates: providing housing, medical services and education. "This will certainly put a load on the capability of the government and the country, taking into consideration that Jordan has poor resources, especially in water and food," he added.

What guarantees are there that once Kuwait and Iraq are stable the expatriates will not go back and leave what they invested in Jordan?

There is a psychological factor to this, Dr. Halaika said. "After passing through hard conditions, the expatriates realise that their home is in Jordan. Many people think it will be a long time before stability is attained in the two countries."

Dr. Halaika said that expatriate had a difficult time, "but I call on both the public and private sectors and various institutions involved to take

initiatives to form high level committees to deal with this issue and to set up mechanisms for absorbing the people in Jordan."

Mr. Asfour said that the real guarantee for any investment was to maintain a convenient investment climate and keep reinforcing the private sector. "The serious trend towards encouraging the private sector, motivating its activity and upgrading its productivity is one of the common denominators for Jordan's economic development."

As the Kingdom witnesses a high rate of investment, overcoming the economic bottlenecks should come through motivating the private sector, whether local or expatriates. "So the process of capitalising on the investors' rush is not an isolated, special procedure, to be taken due to a sudden (investors' rush) it is rather one of the constants within the economic trend of the development strategy that Jordan adopts," according to Mr. Asfour.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry, however, sees that Jordan is able to handle the sudden rush to invest because "we have good infrastructure." Dr. Badran pointed out that "we can handle double the projects that Jordan has now, with no problems."

In terms of the banking sector's demands, the new investor's response, the Chamber of Commerce said that according to the size of facilities and credit given by the banking system, "it is noticed that there is a positive reaction by the banking sector to match with the demand of money up to a certain extent."

Mr. Asfour added that specialised credit institutions have been recently set up in a more responding manner, which would lead to more investments for the direct productive sectors. On the other hand, he said, "the banking system still experiences its classical ways and means in dealing with investors and a distinguished improvement in granting credit could be of great help in motivating investments and reinforcing internal sectoral integration."

It is felt by many that now is the time for the government to decentralise, to enable the private sector to play a leading role in the economy. Moreover, as Jordan enters a new economic era, "it is important to have an indicative socio-economic plan," Mr. Asfour said. In this way, it is possible to design the forthcoming shape of the economic frame, to evaluate the process of economic performance at a certain period of time, to organise the act of economic activities in order to achieve the goods targeted and to accelerate the rate of growth.

Canadian blacks comment on racism

By Jeffrey Ulbrich
The Associated Press

MONTREAL — Paul Newman, a 28-year-old kitchen worker, had been here three days when he had his first run-in with police. "I'd just arrived from Jamaica," he said during a chat in front of a black social club in the Cote des Neiges district. "It was a Friday, on Monday, I was walking down the street and they grabbed me, put me in a police car and said I had been wanted for the past three years."

"I said, 'how can that be? I've only been here three days.' They kept me from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Finally they filed no charges and just let me go."

"Don't walk around with more than \$500 or they'll think you

stole it," said the 38-year-old unemployed black man who would not give his name. "A lot of guys got money, but they prefer to get a second-hand car to avoid the hassle with police."

"There's a lot of racial tension here, I'm telling you a lot, a lot," said a man leaning on the trunk of his car. "It's getting worse and worse. Racism here is not like in the United States, it's not right up front."

"People go far an apartment, they tell you its already taken. Get somebody white to go up there, he can get the apartment."

"A cop calls you a nigger, how do you prove it? The justice system always sides with the police. I'm going to put a recorder in my pocket and whenever I talk to police, I'm going to turn it

on. "Like when that guy got beat up in La, if there had not been that camera, we'd never know about it, and that's what's happening here. We've got no proof."

"Canadians are more subtle than Americans," said the young woman waiting for a class at a neighbourhood black centre. "They are more civilised. They know they are not supposed to be racist, so they are more subtle."

"You can feel it at work," said Horton Joyette, an artist having a beer at a local club. "You're intelligent, you have ideas, but you're not promoted."

"What the black man is looking for here is a figure, another Martin Luther King. The main thing here is to unite, not to say we are

Jamaicans, St. Lucians, Haitians, etc., to get together."

"Some people go out to look for a job with a chip on their shoulder," said boxer Otis Grant, the WBC intercontinental super-middleweight champion. "If they are not hired on merit, they say it was race."

On the other hand, the 23-year-old fighter said, a young black driving through an upper-class Montreal neighbourhood is just asking to be stopped by police.

"That happens a lot," he said. "They see you in a place with a lot of money, they'll pull you over and ask you what you are doing there."

"If the police and the commun-

ity would respect one another, it would be better. You can't look at the whole police department and say all of them are racist. And you just can't look at the black community and say all of them are drug dealers."

"I don't think the racial problem is so bad that it can't be corrected," said Errol Johnson, a businessman defeated by only 100 votes in his run for a city council seat from an overwhelmingly white neighbourhood.

Johnson, too, speaks of subtle racism. "It's part of the Canadian character," he said. "In the long term, it's very dangerous because it's swept under the carpet. Once you can face the problem, you can work out a solution."

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT, FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604676 604696
P.O. BOX 7806 AMMAN

4 Rent & Sale

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale - furnished or unfurnished.

Also many lots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call

Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 610625, 610600
Fax: 610620

Ricardo 2262

Amman's exclusive gift shop

Italian shoes, leather goods, perfumes, lighters, watches, pens, silverware, porcelain, crystalware etc.

Shmeisani - Grindlays Bank Bldg.
Tel. 669 457

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service

Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Sweilich tel: 823891

RENT Saudi Real Estate

Furnished & unfurnished apartments & villas for rent in West Amman area.

CALL SOHA
Rental Dept. 687821/22

CROWN INT'L EST.

Packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service

Air, Sea and Land

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664090
Fax: 690852
P.O. Box 925487 Amman

The International Russian Circus

Two shows daily at 5.00 and 8.00 p.m.
The A. Alf - the University Hospital bridge

For more information please call:
Al and Asf (phone) 611112
or Alf and Asf (phone) 297376

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Alhyiah Girls School

Taken away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
7:00 - Midnight
Tel. 638068

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE

elegant colorful atmosphere moderate prices

shmeisani tel: 600250
(now open daily)

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 618214

Come and taste our specialities

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

MANDARIN RESTAURANT

Special Chinese Foods Skilled Chinese Chefs

Open 12:30-3:30 & 6:00-11:30 daily

Taken away is available

Wadi Saqra Road near Philadelphia Hotel
Tel. 661922, Amman

Once Tasted Always Loved

THE RANCH STEAK HOUSE

The best steak in town.

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel. 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO

Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

LOBBY LOUNGE

SAFARI ENTERTAINMENT

Carl Lewis answers critics with 3rd fastest time ever

TOKYO (R) — Carl Lewis answered the critics who said he would surrender his 100 metres title to Leroy Burrell by clocking the third fastest time ever recorded on the opening day of the World Athletics Championships Saturday.

"All year long you guys have tried to count me out but I haven't even run my best race yet," Lewis told reporters after winning his second round heat in 9.80 seconds, though with wind assistance well over the levels accepted for records.

The impressive fluency of his run was the high spot of an opening day which also saw China celebrate a first championship gold, an outbreak of chaos in the Tokyo National Stadium and deplorable weather conditions.

Lewis, an obsessive collector of gold medals but widely tipped before the nine-day championships to lose his crown to fellow-American Burrell, showed his paces in the first round with the fastest time, 10.12 seconds, despite falling rain.

But the best was to come in the second round by which time the rain had been replaced by swirling winds.

Up against Olympic medalist Linford Christie of Britain, Lewis accelerated smoothly

out of the blocks and surged towards the tape before easing up in the last few metres.

The crowd gasped and cheered when his time of 9.80 seconds went up, believing he had broken the 9.90-second world record Burrell set in June. But the tailwind of 4.3 metres per second was more than double the limit permitted for ratification.

The only faster times ever run were Lewis's own 9.78 seconds in 1989 with an even greater wind advantage and the 9.79 clocked by Canadian Ben Johnson to win the Olympic final that year in Seoul before he was disqualified for taking dope.

"I wish I could take this run into the final but I can't," Lewis said. "I wanted two good technical races today and I got two very good ones."

The wind helped produce some other sensational times with Frank Fredericks of Namibia winning his heat in 8.89 seconds and Christie second behind Lewis in 9.90.

Ironically, the wind calmed when Burrell raced and though he won his second round heat, his time of 10.11 seconds was only the 10th fastest. He had been second quickest, equal with Jamaican Ray Stewart, in the first round with 10.17 seconds.

"Any decent sprinter can run 9.80 seconds with that wind and Carl's a great sprinter," Burrell said. "I wanted to run faster but I need to be better at the start."

The experienced campaigner Lewis has certainly gained a psychological edge over Burrell before Sunday's semifinals and final of the showpiece event of the championships.

Lewis may have been quite content but the biggest smile in the stadium was on the face of Huang Zhihong, who won the women's shot to give China its first world outdoor title.

She comfortably beat the defending champion Natalya Lisovskaya, who is also the Olympic gold medalist and world record holder, winning with 20.83 metres and having three other better marks than the Soviet woman's 20.29 metres.

"I am very happy, especially as I was only eighth in the Olympic final in Seoul," said Huang, whose compatriot Sui Xinnel won the world indoors title in the same event in March.

The first gold medal of the championships went to balking Italian walker Maurizio Damilano, a 34-year-old veteran who was 1980 Olympic champion. He kept his head amid the

confusion as the leaders in the 20-kilometre road walk entered the stadium while sprinters were still lining up for a heat.

Damilano, sporting a white cap and a big grin, lost his smile when he stumbled over a starting block but he had the last laugh as Soviet rival Mikhail Schennikov sprinted for the line, unaware there was one more lap of the stadium still to go.

The Italian retook the lead and held on to triumph. Daniel Plaza of Spain finished third but was disqualified and had an appeal turned down, leaving the bronze for Soviet walker Yevgeniy Misulya.

The women's 10-kilometre walk was comfortably won by Alina Ivanova, the 22-year-old Soviet champion.

There were few surprises in heats and qualifiers for finals later in the championships. In the women's long jump, world and Olympic champion American Jackie Joyner-Kersey had a 6.91-metre jump to reach Sunday's final, four cms better than her arch-rival, the 1983 world champion Heike Drechsler of Germany.

World record holder Arturo Barrios of Mexico failed to start in his 10,000 metres semifinal because of a leg injury.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Senna takes pole in Belgium

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — World Champion Ayrton Senna clearly outpaced all his rivals on Saturday to take pole position for Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix for the fourth year in succession. Senna, who leads his nearest rival Nigel Mansell by 12 points in the battle for this year's World Drivers' Championship, produced the two fastest laps of the final qualifying session in his McLaren to finish up nearly a second clear of the field. In the end, after a strong challenge by Briton Mansell, it was Mansell's Williams team mate Italian Riccardo Patrese who was second quickest and will share the front row of the grid for Sunday's 44-lap race with the Brazilian. Senna improved on his fastest time set in opening qualifying Friday by clocking a best lap of one minute and 17.811 seconds Saturday. Patrese clocked 1:48.661. Frenchman Alain Prost was third-quickest in a Ferrari ahead of Mansell in the other Williams. Austrian Gerhard Berger was fifth-fastest and will share the third row of the grid with Jean Alesi of France in the second Ferrari.

Sainz extends lead in 1,000 Lakes Rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (R) — Carlos Sainz, Spain's world rally champion, continued to dominate on the third day of the 1,000 Lakes Rally Saturday. On a day when a spate of accidents shook up the leader board, Sainz pushed his factory Toyota into a 22-second lead over the Lancia of Finland's Juha Kankkunen. Didier Auriol of France, also in a Lancia, was in third place 91 seconds off the lead. Three of the top 15 cars were rolled in the day's early stages and first-day leader Markku Alen lost more than two minutes with a puncture. Alen, running in third place, changed the wheel on his Subaru with the help of spectators who held the car up for him. But despite the quick change Alen still dropped to eighth in a tightly-competitive race. Unusually dry weather has increased speeds on the gravel roads of the Finnish forests in this year's 1,000 lakes. Eighth-placed Ari Vatanen rolled his factory-supported Ford Cosworth into a ditch, dropping to 10th place after spectators helped him back onto the road.

Mexico's Zaragoza retains WBC title

SEOUL (R) — Veteran Mexican Daniel Zaragoza retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) crown Saturday against South Korea's Hub Chun by a unanimous points decision in a bloody 12-round bout in Seoul. Despite suffering a cut forehead in the sixth round, the 34-year-old Zaragoza dominated his South Korean challenger, who landed few effective blows during the bout. The left-handed champion cornered the 26-year-old challenger several times with a superb combination of strong hooks and uppercuts in the eighth, 10th and 11th rounds. The three judges scored the match 118-108, 117-107 and 119-106 in favour of Zaragoza. There were no knockdowns but the fight turned bloody as the cut on the right side of Zaragoza's head was repeatedly opened in the latter half of the bout. Blood streamed down the side of the champion's face and splattered on to Hub's white trunks. Hub was also cut on his left eye in the 10th round. The bout was Zaragoza's first title defence since he recaptured the WBC in June.

U.S. Swimmers lead in Pan Pacific gold

EDMONTON, Alberta (R) — Australian swimmer Kieren Perkins fell just four-100ths short of a world record in the 800-metre freestyle at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships Friday, blistering the distance in seven minutes 50.68 seconds. The performance had the crowd in the pool hall screaming and gave Australia one of two gold medals on the day. Australian swimmer Linley Frame narrowly beat out team-mate Samantha Riley to win the women's 100 metre breaststroke in one minute 9.98 seconds. The United States team finished the day with seven golds. Summer Sanders of the U.S. won her second gold of the meet, taking the 100 metre individual medley with a time of four minutes 43.66 seconds. Thursday she won gold in the 200 metre butterfly. Matt Biondi of the U.S. won the men's 100 metre freestyle with a time of 49.72 seconds, while team-mate Mike Barrowman won the men's 100 metre breaststroke in one minute 22.02 seconds.

Gascoigne arrives in Rome

ROME (R) — England international Paul Gascoigne said Friday he wanted to prove he had been right to join Lazio instead of one of Italy's better-known clubs. The World Cup midfielder, recovering from a serious knee injury, told a news conference in Rome that he hoped to play again by the end of January. "It's going well. I should be kicking a ball again by Christmas. I'd like to try and be back playing by the end of January," he said. But Lazio general manager Carlo Regalia doubted an early return, saying he expected him to be match fit by March. Gascoigne arrived in Rome to a rapturous welcome from thousands of Lazio fans Thursday and the Rome-based national sports daily Corriere dello Sport Friday dedicated its front and back pages entirely to him.

Sanchez Vicario, Maleeva, reach Washington final

WASHINGTON (R) — Sixth-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria dispatched third-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez of the U.S. 6-3, 6-1 to move to the final against second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain at the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Washington Friday.

Sanchez Vicario of Spain blitzed seventh-seeded Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union 6-0, 6-1 in 43 minutes in the other semifinal.

Maleeva, ranked 11th in the world, took advantage of the fifth-ranked Fernandez's lack of a definite strategy, slamming her groundstrokes to the corners of the court.

"I think I made many errors and I wasn't totally sure what I wanted to do. The rallies were really long and she handled it better than I did," Fernandez said.

Maleeva opened the evening match with a 3-0 lead and kept Fernandez on the defensive most of the first set. In the second set, Maleeva broke for a 2-1 lead on two double-faults by Fernandez.

Fernandez stayed in the second set by using her looping topspin backhand to lure Maleeva into giving her easy forehands. But Maleeva outstayed Fernandez on the crucial points in the final two games.

Sanchez Vicario, fourth in the world, dominated the 13th-ranked Meskhi with accurate groundstrokes. She took the first 11 games of the match.

"I lost my concentration on the one game that (Meskhi) won, but I was certain I would get it back. I played really 'well today' said Sanchez Vicario.

Spaniard on target for 2nd European swimming gold

ATHENS (R) — Defending champion Martin Lopez Zubero staked a powerful claim for his second gold medal of the European Swimming Championships Saturday, looking in a class of his own in the men's 100 metres backstroke heats.

The American-based Spaniard, world record holder and new European champion in the 200 backstroke, won the last heat in a quick 55.28 seconds, leaving all the other final qualifiers over a second behind.

Lopez Zubero, who broke the 200 backstroke world record at last week's U.S. National Championships, could endanger the 51.51 world 100 metres mark of American David Berkoff and the 55.00 European record of Igor Poliansky of the Soviet Union.

Dirk Richter, East German world champion back in 1982 and still going strong, posted the second-fastest overall heat time of 56.48 and looked good for another medal in the evening's final following his silver in the 200 event.

Ian Wilson signalled a strong challenge for Britain's second gold medal by leading 1,500 metres freestyle qualifiers for Sunday's final ahead of world and defending European champion Joerg Hoffmann of Germany.

Wilson, fourth behind Hoffmann in January's Perth World Championships, won his heat in 15:15.07 — 10 seconds faster than the ex-East German, who took the last heat in 15:25.80. Yugoslav Igor Majcen was second-best

overall in 15:24.31.

Hoffmann, who broke the 1,500 world record in Perth and also won the 100 freestyle, looks vulnerable in Athens and finished only fifth in Friday's 100, giving Wilson every chance of emulating Friday's 200 breaststroke winner Nick Gillingham with a gold for Britain.

Germany, without a swimming gold going into the final two days of the nine-day meeting, hoped for better things after setting the qualifying pace in the women's 200 individual medley and men's 200 butterfly.

Marion Zoller set the best medley time of two minutes 17.55 seconds and qualified ahead of Romanian Beatrice Coadă, who clocked 2:18.60 and appeared poised to add to her Athens collection of three silvers.

Olympic champion Daniela Hunger, once of East Germany, qualified sixth, more than two seconds behind Zoller.

Meanwhile heavily-depleted Yugoslavia reached the European Championship water polo final Friday, to the surprise and delight of their coach.

Yugoslavia, which meets Spain in Saturday's final, arrived in Athens without five Croatian members of the squad which won the World Championship title in Perth last January.

"After what happened I could only hope we would reach the top four but I was sceptical even about that," coach Nikola Stamenic said. "I am delighted we have reached the final."

McEnroe sweeps to semis in Hamlet Cup tournament

COMMACK, New York (R) — Fourth-seeded American John McEnroe swept past Luiz Mattar of Brazil 6-3, 6-1 in the quarter-final round of the \$250,000 Norstar Bank Hamlet Challenge Cup Tennis Tournament Friday.

McEnroe, ranked 17th, came off a shaky start of take 10 of the last 12 games from the 72nd-ranked Mattar.

McEnroe joins top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden, second seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and qualifier Olivier Delaite of Luxembourg in the semifinals.

McEnroe, who was extended to three sets in last week's Volvo International Tournament by Matter, allowed the South American only four points off his last

six service games.

The afternoon matches featured Edberg holding off the challenge from America's ageless Jimmy Connors 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Edberg, looking to defend his 1990 Hamlet Cup title, had more success than Connors in saving break points as neither could come up with a commanding service.

The Swede saved 12 of 17 break points while Connors saved six of 13.

Connors, playing a solid three sets, was in it to the end, but failed to convert the break points when he needed them. He had five break points against Edberg in the Swede's first two service games of the third set.

Stich moves to semifinals easily at OTB Open

SCHENECTADY, New York (R) — Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany continued his winning ways, needing only 70 minutes to dispose of Australia's Todd Woodbridge 6-4, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the \$250,000 OTB Open Tennis Tournament.

Top-seeded Stich, who served up eight aces to give him 34 in three matches, will face Horst Skoff of Austria in one of the semifinals.

Skoff outlasted Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union in their quarterfinal marathon 5-7, (8-10) 6-3, 7-6, (7-2). The match took 3 hours and 44 minutes.

Seventh-seeded Woodbridge said Stich simply hit the ball too well.

"It's very difficult to stop somebody who is swinging away at everything and everything is going in," Woodbridge said. "Any time he gets into trouble, he just starts hitting aces."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAR HIRSH
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K42 ♣AQ7 ♢32 ♠AQ864
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K42 ♣AQ7 ♢32 ♠AQ864
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A432 ♣K10765 ♢K6 ♠K8
Partner opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you

take?
Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8872 ♣6 ♢KJ4 ♠QJ1065
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

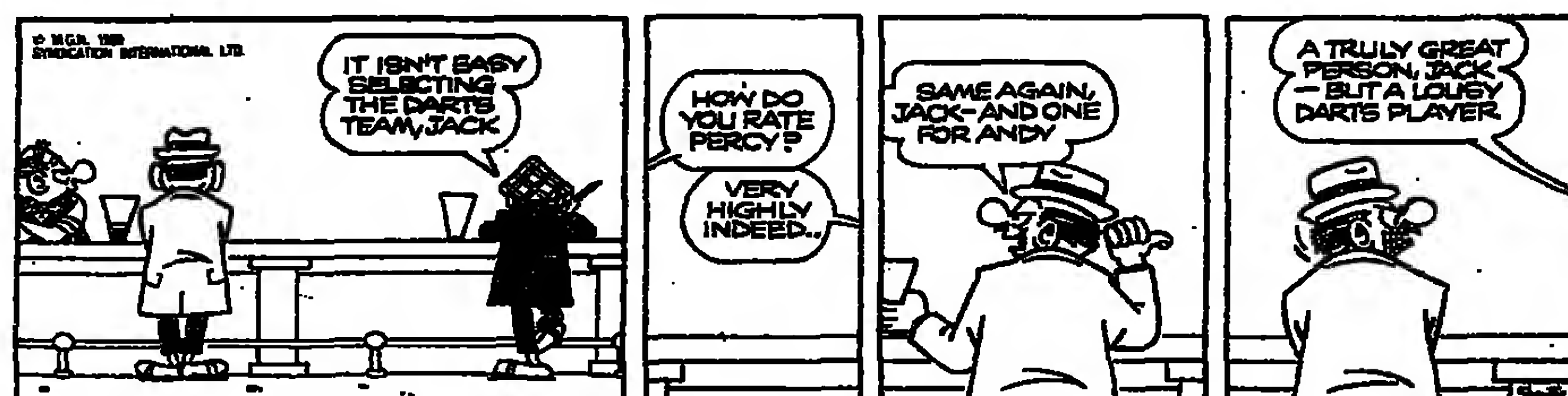
Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K854 ♣4 ♢A4 ♠AK10873
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with a weak two-heart bid. What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A1054 ♣7643 ♢A932 ♣7
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 25, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon in Pisces offers you a fine opportunity to get busy contacting those with whom you need to communicate in order to improve your personal, business and official relationships.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can discuss calmly and rationally how to get along with others but if any anger or other negative thoughts are stated you can be in trouble.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Fellow associates may want to change about the project that you and they had agreed to do but its best you cooperate and talk things out pleasantly.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take some time out now to channel those about you and to sidestep any moot points that could lead to trouble of any kind and its a great day.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A day to be sure you do what your family suggests and that you say or do nothing that can in anyway threaten you basic security at home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever others expect of you should require your thoughtful attention for if you slough them off you can have some pretty difficult conditions to come.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now your need for more revenue is apparent but instead of

spending more money to be in a position to make more, you'd be wise to cut your losses.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have some problem with a partner that is real but that can be easily settled by showing you want to be cooperative instead of having it your own way.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you are able to gain the good will and active allegiance of the many personalities who you like by some very private backing or support.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day to be with friends and allies as much as you can and to forget yourself in helping them with whatever is presently upsetting them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make a point to show your devotion to whatever cause you are fond of by concentrating on this instead of trying to get what you personally desire.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A new approach at the way you are tackling usual and routine projects can bring to light how to advance your interests with more character and understanding.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now you find all kinds of conditions at your residence that have to do with a combination of family and vocational activities and you need to be diplomatic with everyone.

Anniversary present! Birth Stone

World Resources - Dapin & Co. Inc. Annam - Ro De Janeiro
Jewellers - Gerts Annam - Antra Hotel - Bm. Card

THE BETTER HALF

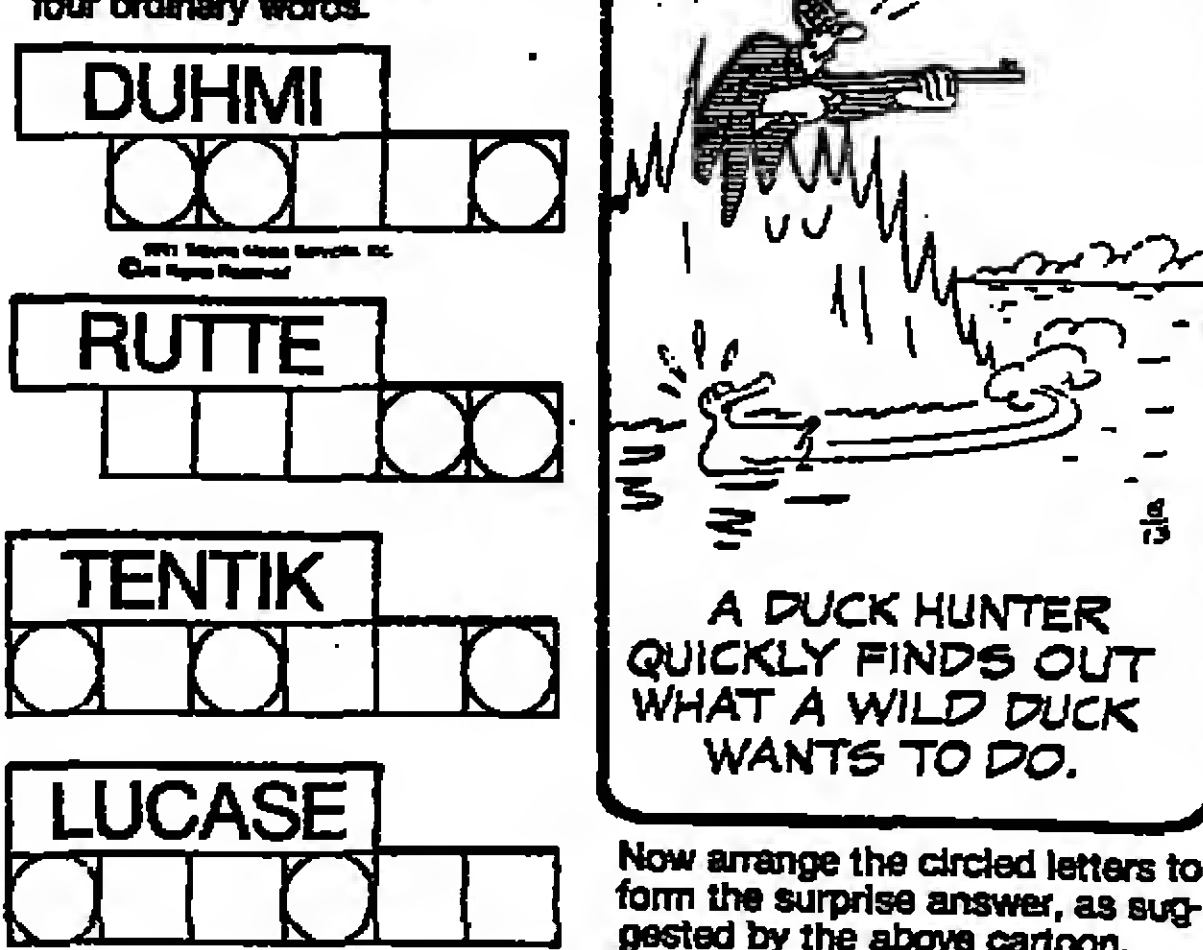
By Barnes



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRESS ANKLE BAKING EMBRYO
Answer: At wild parties "anything goes," and the first is usually this—MANNERS

THE Daily Crossword by I. Miller



Financial Markets

Currency	New York Close	New York Open
Sterling Pound	1.6915	1.6770
Deutsche Mark	1.7320	1.7480
Swiss Franc	1.5110	1.5275
French Franc	5.8855	5.9305
Japanese Yen	136.60	136.87
European Currency Unit	1.1735	1.1740

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.75	6.00
Sterling Pound	10.51	10.62	10.56	10.54
Deutsche Mark	6.87	6.06	9.25	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.12	8.09	7.57	7.81
French Franc	9.25	9.38	9.50	9.55
Japanese Yen	7.37	7.21	6.96	6.75
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.63	9.81	9.81

Precious Metals			Date: 23/8/1991		
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	353.45	6.90	Silver	3.96	.095

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.690	.692
Sterling Pound	1.1569	1.1627
Deutsche Mark	.9444	.9467
Swiss Franc	.4512	.4533
French Franc	.1161	.1167
Japanese Yen	.5037	.5082
Dutch Guilder	.3501	.3519
Swedish Krona	.1054	.1089
Italian Lira	.0532	.0531
Belgian Franc	.01918	.01926

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7650	1.7900
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0780
Saudi Riyal	.1835	.1842
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.7650	1.7900
Omani Rial	.1865	.1880
Egyptian Pound	.2100	.2300
Omani Rial	1.7450	1.7900
UAE Dirham	.1865	.1880
Greek Drachma	.3400	.3500
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4500

Index	14/8/1991 Close	21/8/1991 Close
All-Share	109.10	107.17
Banking Sector	103.01	100.32
Insurance Sector	116.75	117.65
Industry Sector	115.46	114.32
Services Sector	127.38	126.78

Rafidain Bank posts ID 360 million profit

BAGHDAD (R) — The Rafidain Bank, one of Iraq's two highest street banks, made a profit of more than 360 million dinars (\$1.1 billion at the official rate) in 1990, a weekly magazine has reported.

Alef Ba said money deposited with the state-run bank in 1990 totalled 13.8 billion dinars, about one billion dinars up on 1989. The bank made a profit of 361,400,000 dinars, it added.

Rafidain is present has its central bank, the Rafidain Bank and the Rasheed Bank, which was set up three years ago.

Alef Ba said last month the Rasheed Bank's 1990 profits were up 15 per cent at 193 million dinars (just under \$618 million at the official rate).

Four would-be private banks have asked for permission to open for business under a new law passed by Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

U.S. economy takes first awkward steps of a shaky recovery

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economic recovery is at an awkward stage.

Some economists worry the upturn is so weak that it will lose power, staggering back to a standstill, or, worse yet, into recession.

Others point to this week's unexpected jump in durable goods orders — a key ingredient of any upturn — believing the recovery may be firmly in place.

A "double dip," with the economy seeming to recover only to drop into recession again, are not in the cards, they say.

The attempted coup in the Soviet Union briefly diverted Wall Street's attention away from fundamental economic questions but that quickly subsided.

For policy-makers at the Federal Reserve (Fed) Board, an economic turn from recession to recovery is always a difficult time.

Too much stimulus can feed future inflation. Too little can derail the upturn before it achieves speed.

The Fed's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) met this week to decide the course of monetary policy for the period ahead and many analysts believe it agreed in its secret discussions that slightly more stimulus may be needed.

"I think the Fed was nervous and agreed to tilt (its policy) toward easing," said David Wyss for DRU/McGraw-Hill Inc. Philip Braverman at DKB Securities Corp. agreed: "An objective appraisal of all relevant factors can only lead to the Fed to conclude lower interest rates are mandated."

The decision is not one of the Fed takes easily. Although there is substantial evidence inflation is under control, it is a spectre which always haunts Fed deliberations.

But the recovery has been sending out mixed signals and, at the very least, seemed unlikely to achieve the economic growth seen in the early stages of many previous expansions.

This debate dropped into the background when the Soviet coup sent markets reeling this week.

Bundesbank says high German pay increases may threaten prosperity

FRANKFURT (R) — Big pay increases next year in Germany's annual round of wage negotiations could threaten the prosperity that western Germany has enjoyed for the last decade, Germany's central bank has said.

In its monthly report, the Bundesbank delivered a detailed criticism of 1991 pay settlements, which it said came out well above seven per cent with new pay structures.

"If the trend set in the 1991 pay round continues, (there is a danger) that the broad economic success achieved in the 1980s... will be threatened... domestic inflationary pressures and risks to jobs and economic growth will increase," it said.

The Bundesbank said the high 1991 pay rises showed that the period of moderate wage gains seen in the 1980s was over.

Higher pay costs and a rise in contributions for social security meant that firms were being squeezed at a time when productivity growth was slowing, forcing unit costs up.

High wage rises in western Germany were making unification of the two German economies more difficult as eastern wages were based directly on those in the west. East German pay negotiations focus on achieving a per-

centage of western wages.

The German workforce had grown with unification but this had not been matched by an increase in productive capital stock, as many east German companies' production capacities had been rendered economically obsolete.

"It is essential for the construction of productive capital stock that wage policies take account of (the costs involved in this construction)," the Bundesbank said.

Moderacy in pay settlements had played an important role in enabling the west German economy to pull out of a period of economic weakness in the early 1980s, the bank said.

The oil price rise in the early 1980s had prompted excessive pay rises which then had to be clawed back by companies to improve their viability, it said.

The Bundesbank raised its key discount and Lombard interest rates last week in a bid to fight inflation. High 1991 pay rises are one factor that it has blamed for a recent surge in consumer prices.

West German consumer prices rose 4.4 per cent in the year to July, a sharp increase from preceding months. Year-on-year price rises are at their highest since 1982.

World Bank lends Rabat \$235 million

RABAT (R) — The World Bank has lent Morocco \$235 million to support financial reforms and promote investments in private enterprises, the official news agency MAP said Friday.

It said \$125 million would be used to support financial reforms in the government's economic readjustment programme.

The remaining \$110 million are lent to the state's National Economic Development Bank (BNDE) and seven commercial banks to finance export-oriented private enterprises.

Repayment will begin in 1996 and continues until 2011.

Platinum price drops to lowest since 1985

LONDON (R) — Platinum fell Friday to its lowest price fixing in London in 5-1/2 years.

It was pushed down by news that South Africa's Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd., the world's second biggest miner of platinum, was back at full production after a week of industrial unrest.

The metal's price was set at \$331.50 an ounce in the afternoon, down around \$5 from its morning fix, and well below Thursday's close of \$343.50.

Its previous lowest price fixing in London was \$330.25 an ounce on Dec. 18, 1985.

At one point Friday the metal dipped to a low around \$326, before recovering on news of the largest monthly gain in U.S. durable goods orders for July in 20 years.

Gold, which rose about \$2 to \$360.40 an ounce Monday as the world considered the possible fate of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, ended in London at \$354 Friday. Investors were more concerned about the availability of fresh platinum supplies from South Africa.

Canadian firm discovers largest oil well in Yemen

SANAA (R) — Canadian Occidental has discovered a new oil well with the greatest production capacity so far found in Yemen, the deputy oil minister said. Ahmad Qa'ed Barakat said the well at Masilah in the eastern province of Hadramaut could produce an estimated 10,000 barrels per day (b/d). A well discovered in 1984 by the American firm Hunt in the northern province of Ma'areb is producing 8,500 b/d. The Canadian company, awarded a concession to explore for oil in Masilah earlier this year, had previously discovered three wells there producing about 4,000 b/d each. Yemen currently produces 250,000 b/d of crude oil. It recently initiated several agreements with Western oil firms for exploratory drilling and joint oil production.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

CAR FOR SALE

Lexus 1990, full accessories, white colour, duty unpaid.
Call: 844151

CAR FOR SALE

Customs duty unpaid, Chevrolet Caprice super deluxe, 1989 model, white colour, full options. Price JD 7,600, negotiable.
Please call 691986 Osama.

WANTED HOUSEKEEPER

A live-in housekeeper for a small professional family. One child.
Call: 825308

Banks, Kuwait stumble over terms of credits

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Kuwait's insistence on credit terms equivalent to Saudi Arabia's zero-risk rating is stalling negotiations for billion dollar loans to rebuild the emirate after the Gulf war, Gulf-based bankers say.

"The main obstacle is Kuwait's insistence on terms equal to the Saudis — this is unrealistic," one senior banker said of the emirate's first venture into world capital markets.

But they believe agreement could be reached within weeks if Kuwait accepted more realistic credit terms. "Things could happen quickly if there was a breakthrough — we hope to see some movement by the end of September," said one.

Senior Kuwaiti officials have said banks are clamouring to provide the billions Kuwait says it will borrow to finance Gulf war reconstruction and finish paying war costs.

But bankers in the region say it cannot expect to get the same credit terms as Saudi Arabia, which has a zero risk rating with the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) in Basle.

"Kuwait still has major internal security problems and unaddressed political problems — one gets the impression people are sitting fairly firmly on their hands," another said.

Kuwait's opposition is calling for immediate general elections and the restoration of a suspended parliament, which was replaced by a toothless national assembly.

Critics say Kuwaitis are doing little themselves to speed the reconstruction of the country and that tens of thousands have failed to return from war exile or are staying abroad until the rebuilding is done.

Tension continues between those who endured Iraqi occupation and those who preferred exile as well as between Kuwaitis and suspected collaborators, notably Palestinians.

In May, Saudi Arabia, also approaching world capital markets for the first time, received a \$4.5 billion syndicated loan to help cover its own Gulf war costs.

The credit carried an interest rate of 3.8 per cent above the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR), negotiated down from the 1.2 per cent margin considered in February.

Gulf bankers said Riyadh's BIS credit rating — which it negotiated years ago after pledging to provide funds to the International Monetary Fund — was a major advantage.

Like other Gulf Arab states, Kuwait is in the same high-risk category as all non-OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries.

Under BIS regulations due to take effect in 1992, any OECD incorporated bank making a long-term loan to non-OECD countries, companies or banks must cover eight per cent of the loan with an equal increase in bank capital or provisions.

The Gulf-based bankers said these requirements were reducing appetite for a \$300 million five-

year syndicated credit now being arranged for Oman. That loan was priced at 1.2 per cent above LIBOR for the first two years rising to 5.8 per cent for the following three years.

It would be difficult for Kuwait to receive long-term credit pricing superior to Oman, the Gulf-based bankers said.

But they said the emirate which has set a ceiling of \$3 billion on public borrowing could choose from a wide range of other options to raise cash in the short term.

One way would be to pledge overseas assets, valued at more than \$100 billion, as collateral for loans.

Another way would be to use repurchase agreement through which Kuwait could sell government bonds at a specified price with a commitment to repurchase them at a later date.

The emirate could also use export credits to raise money or pledge future oil exports, the bankers said.

"The ball is in Kuwait's court. They know the options... the most sensible thing for them to do would be to arrange a package deal using a variety of them," one banker said.

Kuwait's Finance Minister Nasir Abdullah Al Rodhan has month put planned borrowing at less than \$23 billion.

Central bank governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Saud Al Sabah, said in August the emirate would receive its first loan, expected to be between \$2 and \$5 billion — by the end of September.

Soviet central bank, unaffected by coup, seeks foreign aid

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet central bank said Friday it had not suffered as a result of the failed coup, but it appealed for foreign help with imports and support for efforts to make the ruble freely convertible into hard currencies.

"There were no negative consequences for us. On the contrary, together with the republican central banks, we took all necessary steps to ensure that the state's finances would not be disrupted," Gosbank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko said.

Asked about a proposed meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrial democracies to discuss Soviet aid requirements, he told Reuters: "(Rouble convertibility) is hardly attainable without the appropriate hard currency reserves."

He explained that internal convertibility — that is convertibility

for most foreign trade and other current account transactions — required a stabilisation fund that could only be created with the help of foreign credits.

"Besides this, there are certain difficulties in the economy related to food purchases and spare parts for light industry. It would be very hard to make such import purchases without credit lines," he noted.

Mr. Gerashchenko said monetary cooperation with the republican banks was especially important at this time as the country was struggling to bring in the annual harvest.

"Measures were taken to provide the cash needed for salaries to be provided and for bank withdrawal requirements," he said.

Soviet republics are demanding greater independence following Monday's failed bid to topple

President Mikhail Gorbachev but Mr. Gerashchenko said that country needed a single monetary and financial system.

"Our point of view on the system of organisations of a network of central banks has not changed. Having one monetary unit, there can be only one monetary policy," he said.

The central bank chief said work was continuing on rouble convertibility but some republic did not fully understand the process.

The Ukraine, the second most powerful republic, and some others have been pushing to introduce separate currencies and to take control of their own financial resources.

Mr. Gerashchenko criticised republics for taking control of hard currency earnings from enterprises on their territories.

China's foreign run hotels lost \$85 million in 1990

BEIJING (R) — China's glittering joint-venture hotels lost more than \$85 million in 1990, analysts predict they will continue to run in the red for the next three years, the official China Daily has reported.

The joint-ventures, including international class hotels run by major foreign hotel chains, had an average occupancy rate of only 54 per cent last year as Western tourists continued to shun China after its violent 1989 crackdown on political dissent, the newspaper said.

"Several hoteliers told the China Daily they were caught off guard by the number of joint-venture hotels affected and the scale of their losses," it said.

As more and more hotel projects initiated before 1989 reach completion, some business analysts believe the majority of joint-ventures will continue to

run at a loss for at least the next three years, it said.

The newspaper said Beijing's top losers in 1990 included the Great Wall Sheraton, China World Hotel of the Shanghai-La

Palace Hotel, run by the Peninsula group of Hong Kong.

Other prominent hotels running in the red include the Hyatt Tianjin and a number of major international hotels in Shanghai,

the newspaper said.

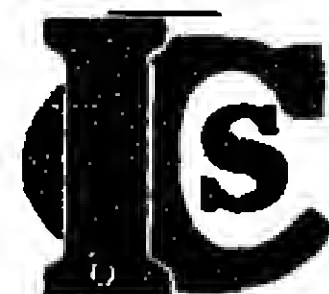
Total losses by joint-venture hotels last year amounted to over 450 million yuan (\$85 million), it said.

The China Daily said the hotels' financial problems have been exacerbated by debt repayment commitments, the sharp devaluation of the yuan against the U.S. dollar and heavy outlays for expatriate salaries for foreign staff.

FOR RENT

New unfurnished first floor apartment in an excellent location - Mecca Street - Tala' El Ali. Three bedrooms, sitting, dining and living rooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, balcony, garage and independent central heating.

Please call: 818294



INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM SCHOOL IN AMMAN

We take children between the ages of 4-11 years and are the only school in Amman to offer the full British curriculum, adapting it to the needs of the International Community. Our language of instruction is English, with specialist support for non-English speakers. French and Arabic languages also offered.

All our staff are U.K. qualified. The school provides a pleasant, stimulating environment and care is taken to meet the needs of each individual child.

Registrations are now being taken for the Autumn term every Monday morning between 9 a.m. and 12 noon throughout July and August.

Address: P.O. Box 2082, Khilda, Amman
Telephone: 841070

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

BODY ROCK

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 10:30

9 1/2 WEEKS

Show: 5:15, 8:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NUJUM

To Be Opened Soon
Nabil Mashini
Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

FAST FOR WORD

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Eagleburger sees independence soon for Baltic republics

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. State Department's No. 2 official Friday predicted the Baltic republics could be independent of Soviet control in six months, much sooner than seemed possible before the failed coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said the coup so weakened the Communist Party in the Soviet Union that he would not be surprised to see Mr. Gorbachev embrace a call for independence of the three states.

"I would be surprised if they aren't free within the next six months. Now, mind you, that's a personal guess and I could be very wrong," Mr. Eagleburger said.

On Wednesday President George Bush said he saw in the outcome of the coup an opportunity now to accelerate the talks that would lead to Baltic independence.

Mr. Eagleburger was interviewed by Cable News Network (CNN) after Mr. Gorbachev appeared before a raucous Russian Parliament Friday in a session that prominently featured Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president.

Mr. Eagleburger ranked Boris Yeltsin as "the senior partner" for now in his relationship with Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev but said the Soviet president should not be counted out.

"I think you have to say that Yeltsin dominated the session. Gorbachev did a good job, but... clearly the maestro or the master of ceremonies was Mr. Yeltsin," Mr. Eagleburger told CNN's Evans and Novak Show Saturday.

"On the basis of what took place on Friday, I think you'd have to say that at this point the Yeltsin is the senior partner in

the partnership," Mr. Eagleburger said.

"I don't know that you can predict that that goes on beyond that," he said, according to a transcript of the show.

The conservatives within the Communist Party, the military leadership and the KGB as an institution were close to destroyed in the three days, he said.

"I think the KGB as an institution is in a shambles. I think a part of the military leadership has certainly been destroyed, or close to it. I think within the party itself certainly the conservatives within the Communist Party are pretty well wiped out," he said.

Mr. Eagleburger said Mr. Yeltsin, a former Communist, had enhanced his prestige by standing up to the coup plotters but that Mr. Gorbachev should not be counted out.

"What I think we have to be very careful of is to assume that Gorbachev is now odd man out, or that he's totally reduced in power and will not again rise to a position of strength," Mr. Eagleburger said.

"I think it is far too early to make that judgment. I think what is going to be the real test is if Mr. Gorbachev grabs hold of the reform process and moves it forward. If we do, I think he could be back in stature again, equal to that of Mr. Yeltsin," Mr. Eagleburger said.

Meanwhile "recognition now" was the chant of New Yorkers and others with roots in the Baltics as they gathered to urge President George Bush to recognize the independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

They made their appeal at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the United Nations Friday, the 52nd anniversary of the signing of the secret Nazi-Soviet protocol that



Lawrence Eagleburger

led to the Soviet annexation of their homelands.

The black ribbons that the protesters had pinned to their suits, blouses and traditional national costumes were in observance of the signing of that agreement, they said, and in memory of those who have died in the current Baltic struggle for independence.

"I think the opportunity is here for the West to make the demands on Gorbachev who is in a shaky situation right now," said Janis Skinkis of the Latvia in Crisis Committee of Greater New York.

"And historically if we lose a moment like this, we don't know what will happen a week or a month from now."

He and other demonstrators expressed frustration that Mr. Bush has not recognized the independence of the Baltic Republics in the wake of the failed coup by Soviet hardliners.

The president has indicated strong sympathy but suggested formal recognition would be premature.

In an open letter to Mr. Bush, the protesters called on him "to immediately recognise the democratically elected governments"

of the Baltic republics.

In another development, from the Lithuanian capital to the Gulf of Finland in Estonia, Baltic residents lit bonfires Friday to mark the anniversary of the secret Soviet-Nazi pact.

Hardline Communists in Moscow were in disarray after failing to topple Mr. Gorbachev, and a bitter anniversary turned joyful as the Baltic independence movements gained new momentum.

The three republics began seizing Communist Party property, and Latvia and Lithuania banned the party altogether. Jubilant Lithuanians danced amid the shards of a smashed statue of Lenin.

Latvian Communist Party chief Alfred Rubiks was arrested and the party headquarters seized. Officials found people "trying to burn documents and archives in the bathrooms and hallways," said Talava Jundzis, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Internal Security.

They found Mr. Rubiks in his office, Mr. Jundzis said. "He doesn't feel guilty about anything... he called Gorbachev a traitor," he said.

In Lithuania, the first bonfire along a 4600-kilometres highway linking the republics was lit outside the television transmission tower seized by Soviet troops in a Jan. 13 assault that left 14 people dead, Soviet soldiers had pulled out of the building only 24 hours earlier.

"We are free now, Lithuania is liberated at last, and we want to tell the whole world about it," said Vytautas Viskacka, 53, with tears in his eyes.

Hundreds of people gathered around bonfires, singing national songs by candlelight as the sun set over Vilnius during a day of elation and celebration.

Frustrated president threatens to quit over Yugoslav violence

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav President Stipe Mesic has again threatened to resign after another meeting of the country's leaders failed to tackle the unbridled violence tearing apart his home Republic of Croatia.

The eight-man collective presidency that Mr. Mesic chairs declared in Croatia 16 days ago was being ignored by the warring factions and clashes were mounting.

But when the presidency meeting broke up Friday night consideration of the issue was postponed until the state commission monitoring the ceasefire provided a written report.

Mr. Mesic, increasingly frustrated by such indecision which enables Serb guerrillas to continue making military incursions in Croatia, said for the second time in a week that he would step down unless action was taken.

"If affairs continue to the detriment of Croatia, and if the army continues to behave as it has, I have no intention of giving legitimacy to this body (the presidency)," Mr. Mesic told Croatian reporters after the meeting.

"This will open the question of whether other members of the federal government, from this region will remain," the Zagreb daily Vijesti quoted Mr. Mesic as saying.

Mr. Mesic, who took over the rotating chairmanship of the increasingly ineffectual presidency

only two months ago, first threatened to resign last Sunday.

He and other Croats accuse the federal army of aiding and arming the guerrillas who have been fighting since Croatia declared independence on June 25 to ensure that Serb areas within the republic remain in Yugoslavia.

On Friday, Croatian Defence Minister Luka Bebic threatened to go on the offensive, suggesting that Croatian forces would storm Serbian positions and villages to weed out the guerrillas and possibly engage the Yugoslav army in direct conflict.

Army Chief of Staff General Blagoje Adzic attended the presidency meeting, which also failed to act on demands by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman that the armed forces must be seen to be neutral in the Croatian conflict.

The president did, however, call on neighbouring countries and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to help prevent the illegal import of arms into Yugoslavia.

In one of the main flashpoints, the town of Sisak southeast of the Croatian capital Zagreb, the head of the local Croatian forces said Saturday that more than 80 Serb guerrillas had been killed in fighting since Thursday.

In the military tactical sense, this is one of the most successful operations on the battlefield of

Croatia," Ivan Bobetko, a bespectacled former bank manager now dressed in the obligatory combat fatigues and running military operations from a heavily fortified office, told Reuters.

"We showed we are better fighters and if we had half of the equipment they have they wouldn't dare do anything."

Mr. Bobetko said five of his men were killed in an ambush Friday.

In the key town of Osijek further east, the local Croatian commander rejected army demands to remove roadblocks preventing access to the city. But he said soldiers from a federal army garrison effectively besieged within Osijek would be allowed out to get food supplies.

Suspicious that the army would take the chance to smash the roadblocks, Vladimir Seks said food-gathering sorties would be escorted by Croatian militia units.

"All other (military) movements are going to be stopped by all possible means," he said.

In neighbouring Hungary, Budapest Radio reported that Hungarian border guards had been authorised to open fire if the frontier was violated either by land or air.

Hungary earlier said eight Yugoslav army warplanes entered Hungarian air space this week when launching rocket attacks on villages between Osijek and the nearby frontier.

COLUMN

Kasparov predicted end of coup

BRUSSELS (R) — Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion, Wednesday predicted the coup in Moscow would be quashed by Thursday. An outspoken supporter of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Kasparov was speaking by telephone from Malibu, Los Angeles. He invited Reuters to interview him about the situation in the Soviet Union in 10 hours time, predicting that by then, "the coup will be over." Kasparov comes from Azerbaijan, one of the few Soviet republics that welcomed the overthrow of Mikhail Gorbachev.

Rich keep getting richer — survey

NEW YORK (R) — The world's billionaires are getting richer and there are more of them in 1990, Fortune magazine said, although two dozen names have dropped from its list since last year. In its Sept. 9 issue, due on U.S. newsstands Monday, the U.S. business magazine said 202 people were worth \$1 billion or more in 1991, up from 182 in 1990. Their average net worth grew to \$2.7 billion, or \$100 million more than last year. The list includes 13 women and an eight-year-old boy. The Sultan of Brunei remains the world's richest man at \$31 billion — the value of his oil, real estate and other investments. Last year he was worth a mere \$25 billion. Second on the list was American Sam Walton, who owns 39 per cent of Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the biggest U.S. retailer, helping to make him worth \$21.1 billion. Walton benefited from a 31 per cent rise in Wal-Mart's stock price. Sam's daughter, Alice, is among the 13 billionaires. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, whose country of Kuwait was invaded by Iraq, and later liberated by allied forces, disappeared from the list.

101 burglaries later, thief confesses

LONDON (R) — A burglar who walked into a police station and confessed to 101 unsolved crimes was jailed for four years. Alexander Mockford, 44, shocked police in the London suburbs of West Ham last January when he said he wanted to clear the slate of 20 years of crime. "You have admitted all these offences, and but for your admissions you would not have been prosecuted," the judge who jailed him said. Mockford had fallen on hard times and was homeless when he made his surprise confessions. "He is one of the most unusual and strangest defendants I have ever dealt with. Everything he has told us has been verified," detective Sergeant Michael Carroll told the court.

Hedy Lamarr pleads not guilty in shoplifting case

CASSELBERRY, Florida (R) — Former screen star Hedy Lamarr has pleaded not guilty to charges she stole less than \$22 worth of items from a Florida chemist shop, a court official has said. The 76-year-old former movie star hailed in her not-guilty plea to retail theft charges, a misdemeanor, and waived the right to appear at her arraignment Tuesday, a court clerk said. Her trial in Seminole County circuit court will probably be scheduled within a few days of an Oct. 2 pretrial conference. Ms. Lamarr was arrested on Aug. 1 and accused of stealing \$21.49 worth of personal care items from a central Florida chemist shop. The sultry beauty was a star in the 1930s and 1940s, appearing in such films as Algiers, Samson and Delilah and Boom Town. She appeared nude in a scandalous 1933 European film called Ecstasy. If convicted, Ms. Lamarr could face up to six months in the county jail and a \$500 fine.

Andy Williams opens a theatre

BRANSON, Missouri (AP) — Singer Andy Williams is the latest star to open a theatre in this southwest Missouri town. Williams will break ground for his new 2,000-seat theatre on Thursday in a brief ceremony, said his spokesman Paul Sheffrin. The 60-year-old singer had a television show in the 1960s and has had more than two dozen pop hits including "Can't Get Used To Losing You," "Rocky Road," "Just Dancin'," "Boxcar Willie," and "Crazy Lane." He is among other performers who have theatres in the city. Dollar City's \$13 million Grand Palace of Country Music, which is under construction.

Kohl to allies after Soviet coup attempt: 'I told you so'

FRANKFURT (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the Soviet coup attempt showed that he was right in siding Moscow and it was now up to his Western allies to follow Germany's example.

Lecturing the West for not asking Soviet reform policies as much as he had wished, Mr. Kohl said Friday night. "Now everyone must say what they are really thinking. We, the Germans, have

done more than everyone else, and we had good reasons to do it."

Without Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, he added in an interview on German television, there would have been no German unification.

Germany, partly because it is financing the withdrawal of Soviet troops from former East Germany, has given or pledged

around 60 billion marks (\$35 billion) in aid since 1989, making it Moscow's most generous backer.

"But our American friends, our Japanese partners and others must now say if they are ready to do something within the limits of what is possible. We, the Germans, have no backlog, have no backlog," Mr. Kohl said in his most blunt remarks yet on the issue.

G-7 to start review of Soviet aid next week

LONDON (AP) — Top policy advisers from the world's richest democracies will meet next week to review aid to the Soviet Union and fast-moving developments following the aborted headline coup, Prime Minister John Major's office announced.

The meeting is the first step to any change in the modest aid package that the seven major industrialised nations have given the Soviet Union.

Some critics charge that the seven capitalist powers, by failing to give the Soviet Union massive financial aid, may have contributed to the attempt to overthrow President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The so-called group of seven met on the issue of cash handouts when they met with Gorbachev in their summit in London last month, and remain divided following the coup.

Germany, France and Italy have called for the major powers to respond with cash. But the United States, Britain, Japan and Canada oppose large-scale handouts before the Soviet Union takes tangible progress toward a market economy.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whose country is Moscow's biggest financial and political backer, stepped up the pressure today, calling on his "American ends, Japanese partners and others" to do more to help Gorbachev reform the Soviet Union. President Bush Thursday reiterated any immediate change in U.S. position.

Mr. Major, the current G-7 chairman, decided Thursday to ask advisers to review "the new situation in the Soviet Union," on half of their heads of government, said a spokesman, speaking on condition he was not identified. He said Moscow needs assistance, but not "stacks of dollars."

The policy advisers will report to Mr. Major and may be asked to draw up proposals for action, a spokesman said. No date has been set for next week's meeting in London, he said.

A follow-up meeting of foreign ministers or heads of state is likely because Mr. Major can

58 dead in S. Korean surprise typhoon

SEOUL (R) — Rescuers searched Saturday for survivors of typhoon Gladys, which surprised South Korean forecasters by lashing the unprepared southern coast with torrential rain, killing at least 58 people.

A spokesman for the National Anti-Disaster Relief Centre said three days of rain also left nearly 10,000 South Koreans homeless.

"A wrong weather forecast by the Meteorological Agency must be partly blamed for causing the unexpected number of victims and damage," a weather official said. "The agency first forecast Gladys would move out to the Sea of Japan," he said.

Officials had estimated property damage at more than eight billion won (\$11 million), but Yonhap, South Korea's domestic news agency, said damage could reach 20 billion won (\$28 million).

Gladys, which brought up to 60 cm of rain in the country's southern provinces since Thursday, was downgraded to a depression and fizzled out over the yellow sea between South Korea and China early Saturday, the spokesman said.

President Roh Tae-woo ordered the weather agency to upgrade its equipment to improve forecasting ability and also told cabinet ministers to make the utmost efforts to bring relief to people made homeless.

The relief centre spokesman said the death toll and damage were expected to rise as rescue teams probed landslides in Pusan. At least 24 of the confirmed deaths were caused by landslides in the Pusan area.

A nuclear reactor at a power station north of Pusan, the country's major port and second largest city, was shut down Thursday when debris blocked cooling tower pumps. Operation of the plant was expected to resume Saturday.

Pravda fails to appear for first time since revolution

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet daily newspaper Pravda, standard-bearer of the Communist Party, failed to appear Saturday for the first time since the 1917 Russian Revolution.

Russian leader Boris Yeltsin Friday suspended Pravda and five other papers which carried statements by the group that tried to topple President Mikhail Gorbachev, accusing them of actively collaborating with the coup.

Mr. Yeltsin's decree did what even German invaders attacking Moscow failed to do in the dark days of October 1941 — stop the presses.

China tells world to mind its own business

PEKING (Agencies) — China's Communist Party chief, uncomfortable aware of his country's deepening isolation since the crumbling of communism in the Soviet Union, has lashed out to the world to mind its own business.

"The choice of the social system and ideology of a nation is up to its own people and brooks no foreign interference," the People's Daily newspaper on Saturday quoted Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin as saying.

Mr. Jiang's remarks were the first by a Chinese leader since the hardline coup in the Soviet Union failed to topple reformist President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The system or lifestyle practiced in a country is the business of the people of that country, themselves, and no foreign nation should interfere," Mr. Jiang Friday told Saw Maung, visiting head of Burma's ruling army junta.

"No country, should impose its type of ideology on others." The first response of China's hardline leaders to the failure of the coup appeared to be an endorsement of its campaign against so-called "peaceful evolution."

Peking's description for what it believes is a plot led by the United States to subvert socialism and replace it with democracy.

Chinese heartened by failed Soviet coup

Meanwhile ordinary Chinese in Peking watched the Soviet coup developments with intense interest, initially shocked at the push and then delighted at the failure of hardliners to grab power.

Rebels invite Sri Lankan minister for talks

JAFFNA (AP) — Tamil Tiger rebels, acknowledging a military setback, have invited a Tamil government minister to the guerrilla-held northern Jaffna town for peace talks, a prominent rebel leader said.

Anton Balasingh, theoretician of the Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the top Tamil separatist group, told a group of visiting Tamil journalists that his group will not obstruct Tourism Minister Savumani's efforts to work out of peaceful solution to the Tamil homeland issue.

"If Minister Thondaman is genuinely interested in bringing the sufferings of the Tamil people to an end, if he is genuinely concerned about peaceful negotiations, he can come to Jaffna," Mr. Balasingh said Thursday.

Mr. Thondaman, who is also leader of the Ceylon Workers' Congress said he welcomed the offer by the Tigers to talk peace.

"I would like to (accept), but will have to wait until we see the outcome of the parliamentary committee," he said in Colombo.

A 43-member parliamentary committee was appointed Thursday to find a peaceful settlement of the Tamil autonomy issue.

The rebel offer for peace talks came weeks after government troops broke the 25-day siege and entered the strategically located Elephant Pass army camp.

Mr. Balasingh, flanked at the press briefing by another high ranking rebel, Yogaratnam Yogi, admitted that the Elephant Pass battle was a "setback" to the guerrilla's struggle.

He spoke to reporters at the Tiger's headquarters in Kondavil village. The area is 300 kilometres south of Colombo.

The government says over 2,000 rebels, and 193 soldiers died in the fighting.

public spending policy, shrinking by one per cent in 1992 from \$40 billion this year.

Industry sources said this week the Defence Ministry had told contractors it planned to cancel or defer helicopter, tank and artillery contracts worth \$500 million.

Among projects suspended was French participation in the \$1.15-billion NH-90 tactical helicopter development with German, Italian and Dutch firms, they said.

The ministry declined to comment.

The official said conversion of the industry would invoke the political cost of job losses to oppose cuts in orders.

China tells world to mind its own business

"In the beginning, everybody was very surprised. Most people hoped that they would fail and that there would be immediate resistance," a Chinese reporter in his late 30s said Friday.

Like most Chinese, he did not want his name linked with any statements that could get him into trouble with the authorities.

The reactions reflect a strong desire in China for the reforms that have swept other communist countries. Peking's headline leaders used the military to crush a hugely popular pro-democracy movement in June 1989.

A young Chinese businessman called the failed Soviet coup "a comfort."

"This was an event that greatly increased our hope" for reforms in China, he said. "We think this sort of thing could happen in China. We feel maybe in one or two years."

Most Chinese learned of the coup Monday night when the nationally broadcast evening news broke with its usual practice of reporting international news at the end of the programme.

The fifth item on the newscast was the report that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had been relieved of his duties and that a six-month state of emergency had been declared.

The news immediately became the main topic of conversation. Elderly retirees animatedly discussed it as they sat on stools outside their apartments that evening, wearily fanning themselves in the heat.

Younger Chinese ran for their radios to tune in to reports by the Voice of America (VOA) and the British Broadcasting Corp (BBC).

Chinese with foreign friends

asked constantly for the latest news out of the Soviet Union, and listeners inundated the VOA office with calls.

The nationally televised news did not air any footage out of Moscow until Thursday night, when it briefly showed Mr. Gorbachev being interviewed on Soviet television shortly after he returned to power. But a news anchor read brief reports based on dispatches from the official Soviet News Agency TASS.

But each day during the three-day coup, ordinary Chinese wondered if the Soviet hardliners would resort to violence to hold on to power in the face of popular opposition — as happened in China in 1989. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people died in Peking in the crackdown.

When the Soviet coup collapsed, "everybody was elated and heartened, including me," said the reporter.

He said it was difficult to assess what impact the coup would have on China, but thought that initially hardliners would point to the Soviet coup as a lesson and "implement even harsher measures" in China to prevent similar successful popular resistance.

But he did not rule out that reformers might eventually gain strength from the triumph of Soviet reformers.

Other Chinese said the events in the Soviet Union would have no practical impact on China.

"If all those 80-year-old men are still in power, nothing will change much," said the businessman, referring to China's aging leaders.

He added that China's hardline military still wields considerable power and that China's economy is basically stable — two factors

that discourage popular protest.

China expels 4 foreigners

China has confirmed it expelled four women, including two U.S. nationals, who came to Peking to support two pro-democracy dissidents on a hunger strike.

The official New China News Agency described the four as "overseas reactionary organisation members" in a report issued late Friday.

"Four members of the 'China Freedom And Democracy Party' were asked to leave China on Aug. 22, as they were involved in activities not conformable with their identity," it said.

Diplomats said the conformable with their identity," it said. Diplomats said the women were rounded up from their rooms in a plush Peking hotel late Wednesday night and early Thursday.

The women were identified by diplomats as Canadian Ning Chyn, Americans Liu Qiyang Cheng Borchert, and a Taiwanese national with a U.S. residence permit, Hsu Ru-Hsieh.

The women, who arrived in China this week from the United States were sponsored by the Chinese Liberal Democratic Party, a pro-democracy group in exile.

Their mission was to plead for better treatment for two of China's most prominent jailed dissidents and to bring money to the men's families.

Chen Ziming and Wang Juntao have entered the second week of a hunger strike. Both are serving 13-year sentences for allegedly organising the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations.

